Hafa Adai!

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FEMA finds some Yutu survivors had land ownership issues. PAGE 3

Yeh-Yeh: The sardine-can ukulele. PAGE 7

1 more passenger tests positive

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Less than 24 hours after a group of six passengers tested positive for COVID-19, one more arriving passenger tested positive yesterday, raising the CNMI's total to 69.

The new case was identified as a positive case through the CNMI's travel screening and tested positive upon arrival. According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. statement, the individual was safely transported to the designated isolation site at Kanoa

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AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 21, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	2,074	43	2,117
Recovered	1,450	0	1,450
Active	590	43	633
Deaths	28	6	34
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		45,823	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	68	1	69
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		19,345*	

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Absentee or early voting are options during the pandemic

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

If voters are worried about going out during election day on Nov. 3 due to COVID-19 concerns they may either opt for absentee voting or early voting, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez yesterday.

Villagomez reminded voters that

See ABSENTEE on Page 4

Villagomez

Economy, environment can go hand in hand

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Overseeing economic growth and taking care of the environment should not be seen as a contradiction. In fact, economic and environmental sustainability are linked in many ways and this was the message of the "Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan" online forum organized by CNMI Office of Planning and Development that was held for three days last week.

After tackling development and revitalization of the CNMI tourism industry, environmental topics were also highlighted on the final day of the

See ECONOMY on Page 4

How Ginsburg's death could reshape the presidential campaign

By STEVE PEOPLES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

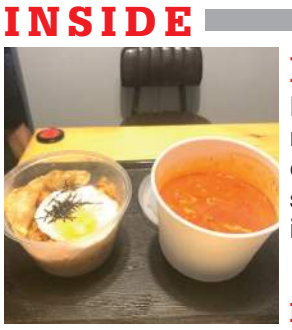
NEW YORK (AP)—A presidential campaign that was already tugging at the nation's most searing divides has been jolted by the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, potentially reshaping the election at a moment when some Americans

See GINSBURG on Page 4

This photo taken on Monday, Sept. 21, shows the U.S. and CNMI flags of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, among the other flags on the island, lowered to half-staff in honor of the life and memory of Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Ginsburg who died last Friday, Sept. 18, at 87. All flags in the Commonwealth will be flown at half-staff until sunset on the day of Ginsburg's interment. Ginsburg will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery later this week. Her husband, Martin D. Ginsburg, was buried at Arlington in 2010.

NEIL FAMA

INSIDE



BUSINESS
BAB Korean Restaurant has added soup dishes to its drive-thru service menu offerings.

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NATION
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death drew mourners to the steps of the Supreme Court.

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LIFE & STYLE
"Schitt's Creek, the show about a fish-out-of-water family, makes history at the Emmy Awards.

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Local

Senate honor former educator Kani with a resolution

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Senate has presented former educator Joan Bloedel Kani with a resolution to honor her "exemplary and outstanding services to the people of the CNMI."

Kani established the Teacher Academy program at Marianas High School in 1989 during the term of Education Commissioner William S. Torres. The Teacher Academy continued until its closure in 2009 when the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College reached a compromise that would transition the program to NMC.

» Kani established Teacher Academy at MHS in 1989

During a Senate session Friday, Senate President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) and Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and the other senators handed the Senate resolution to the 89-year-old Kani, who was with her husband, some family members, former and current Public School System officials, and former students.

Hofschneider introduced the resolution.

According to the resolution, Kani has selflessly dedicated her career to serving the needs of the local education system "at a time when the future stability of providing for a meaningful educational foundation for the youth was [in] jeopardy."

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) presents a Senate resolution to former educator Joan Bloedel Kani last Friday to honor her for her exemplary and outstanding services to the people of the CNMI. Also in the photo, from left, are Kani's husband Jose, and Sens. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan), Senate President Victor Hocog (R-Rota), and Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota).
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

William Torres said he couldn't help but think of the over 400 students that have matriculated under the Teacher Academy program, majority of whom are still with the Public School System.

One of Kani's students, Glenn Muña, actually became Education commissioner, Torres said.

"To me, that's the epitome of this [Teacher Academy] program under your leadership. It is a program that is infused with cross-cultural perspective. This is a program that is dedicated on a personal level. It is a program that infuses passion and commitment for the life of an individual," Torres said.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said Kani not only touches lives but the hearts of many today. "Just like a spark that turns into a flame, your selfless energy of love and care for education has illuminated a torch to bring light to the hope and vision of the CNMI and the students of the CNMI," Ada said.

He said the CNMI greatly respects and honors Kani's accomplishments. "Thank you for living a purposeful life and that now, I can say that the CNMI Public School System is way better than before you came to Saipan," Ada said.

Kani was born in the mid-western state of Wisconsin in Shiocton. At the age of 6, she and her family relocated to Portland, Oregon. She attended Oregon College of Education University for three consecutive years where she obtained a teaching certificate at the top of her class.

She continued her academic excellence as the top student when she received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Lewis & Clark College-Portland, Oregon in 1954.

She began her lifelong goal as an educator at Milwaukie Elementary School in Oregon from 1954 to 1962. She and her family moved to Monmouth, Oregon to raise her three children where she continued her career in education on a part-time basis, supervising student-teachers of then Oregon College of Education, now known as Western Oregon University, from 1965 to 1975.

In 1978, Kani's first husband, a Western Oregon University professor, was offered a job opportunity to become president of the Northern Marianas College. Although the job offer was declined and they returned back to the U.S. mainland, Kani came back to Saipan in 1982 where she taught at Hopwood Junior High School as an English teacher until 1984. In 1984, Kani met Jose Kani, a local Carolinian artist who would become her husband and lifelong companion.

Joan Kani and her family then moved back to Monmouth, Oregon, where she obtained her Master of Science in Education from Western Oregon University in bilingual education in 1986.

Joan Kani and her family returned to Saipan and continued her educational career at Marianas High School as an English teacher, from 1986 to 1988, where she established the Exploring Education program.

In 1998, Kani was recognized in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers."

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FEMA finds some Yutu survivors had land ownership issues

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Office has found that some of the survivors of Super Typhoon Yutu's massive destructions in October 2018 had issues with providing clear deeds or titles to their property to prove proper land ownership.

FEMA Recovery Office director Sheryl Clark Cochran disclosed in an interview Friday that there are several survivor homes that are still undergoing probate review.

"As is often the case on the islands, you have a family and homes are passed down generationally, but a lot of times the paperwork doesn't follow up," Cochran said.

She said FEMA has provided expanded disaster legal services to those survivors to help them prove title and land ownership, and that includes doing family trees and hierarchies.

Cochran

Hoose

"We're actually working with the courts to sign off and make sure that we have clear land ownership before we can proceed," Cochran said.

She emphasized they can't start repairs and construction until they can prove true land ownership.

A total of 183 eligible households, including 13 on Tinian, participated in the CNMI-FEMA Permanent Housing Construction Repair Program.

Cochran said the projection is that all the new home constructions will be done by May 2022, and all home repairs will be completed in January 2021.

On Rota, FEMA external affairs officer Todd Hoose said that Typhoon Mangkhu, in September 2018 did not warrant permanent housing construction. FEMA, however, along with Navy Seabees, still built roofs for 35 homes. "So it was different type of assistance and a different level of typhoon," Hoose said.

It was Yutu that allowed them to implement permanent housing construction, Hoose said.

Last Friday, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Koblerville to open a newly-built concrete three-bedroom house that FEMA built for a family who was the first one among those many Yutu survivors to move to a new home.

2 who allegedly burglarized The Shack get $10K bail

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Superior court imposed a cash bail of $10,000 for the two men who were arrested for allegedly burglarizing The Shack last Sept. 12.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed the $10,000 cash bail on Manex Nimwes, 20, and Dionisio Jr. Angui Ray, 22, last week and they remain in the custody of the Department of Corrections after failing to post bail.

Nimwes and Ray are charged with burglary, theft, and conspiracy for allegedly breaking into and stealing over $350 worth of cash and other items from The Shack.

Both men were ordered to return to court on Sept. 24 at 1:30pm for a preliminary hearing.

They will be arraigned on Oct. 5 at 9am.

According to court documents, DPS received a call at 7:21am on Sept. 12, regarding a burglary at The Shack in San Jose. At the scene, police met with the caller, the establishment's owner, who said that his business partner entered the establishment at 7:30am and found that a window had been shattered and items were missing, including 30 black The Shack T-shirts, a One-Plus android cellphone, and $350 cash.

The caller told police that, after reviewing surveillance footage, he saw an individual wearing a hoody, mask, and cap enter the establishment and go behind the register and taking the cellphone with him. The caller also told police he tracked the phone via Family Tracker app and found it at a residence along Ellegh Avenue.

On Sept. 14 at about 12pm, police were at the Friendly Market in Oleai where they saw a man wearing a new black The Shack T-shirt leave the store and get on a blue Yaris. Police followed the man to a San Jose motel and saw him and a female exit the vehicle. The woman was also wearing a brand-new The Shack T-shirt.

After talking with the two, police learned that one of the defendants, Ray, was the woman's son and he brought a stack of The Shack T-shirts to their home on Sept. 12 and gave them one.

On Sept. 15, police met with Ray at 10:50am at the San Jose Motel and invited him to the police station for questioning. During the interview, Ray told police that he and his co-defendant, Nimwes, were drinking on Sept. 11, and Nimwes asked him to follow him to a nearby store to buy cigarettes. The two walked to Oleai store but it was closed so they decided to walk toward the former Oleai Mobil Station where they crossed the street and headed north. When they reached the front of The Shack, Nimwes allegedly told Ray to wait because he had to pee, so Ray said he waited by the sidewalk while Nimwes headed for The Shack. Later, Ray said, he heard the window of the establishment shatter so he ran across the street toward Downtown Market but

See BAIL on Next Page

$5K bail imposed on man with multiple vandalism cases

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has decided to keep the initial $5,000 cash bail that was imposed on a man who allegedly committed a series of vandalisms across Saipan last Sept. 15, 2020..

Manglona

Lucas Taitano Manglona, 41, remains in the custody of the Department of Corrections after failing to post a bail of $5,000 that was initially imposed by Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

Manglona is charged with one count of vandalism but Govendo said he wants to keep the bail at $5,000 due to the severity of Manglona's alleged crimes.

Manglona allegedly vandalized parked vehicles at the DPA Car Mart in San Antonio, the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Tasi Homes in Susupe, Micro Beach Pavilion, and the New CK Market.

Manglona will have a preliminary hearing on Sept. 23 at 9am and will be arraigned on Oct. 5 at 9am.

According to court documents, police received a call on Sept. 15 at around 2:10am reporting a vandalism incident at the New CK Market. At the scene, the caller, who was serving as a translator for the victim, said the victim saw a shirtless man who was wearing a pair of shorts take a piece of broken concrete and hit the victim's car with it.

Police reviewed surveillance footage from the market and identified the man as Manglona.

On the same day, police received multiple complaints about vehicle damage in the areas west of New CK Market, the direction that Manglona was last seen headed by the first caller.

Department of Public Safety records state that Manglona had been arrested multiple times in the past for throwing rocks at cars or at people and for damaging property.

Back in May, DPS officers responded to a vandalism complaint at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan. The eyewitness who identified Manglona said he was seen urinating outside the hotel and when he was asked to leave, he threw rocks at the hotel staff.

Back in August, DPS responded to a disturbance call at the DPA Car Mart and the caller stated that a shirtless man, later identified as Manglona, was seen slapping the window of a parked car then picked up a rock and threw it at the car window three times.

Also, in August, police responded to a similar complaint and surveillance footage showed Manglona hitting a car parked outside the Tasi Homes with a metal pipe. The complainant said that wasn't the first time Manglona damaged a vehicle in their residence.

Early in September, Manglona was also reported to have been seen damaging cars along the Micro Beach Pavilion by detaching side mirrors from vehicles.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Friday, September 25, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes
    1. April 17, 2020 Special Board Meeting
    2. May 1, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
    3. May 27, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
    4. July 24, 2020 Special Board Meeting
    5. August 20, 2020 Special Board Meeting
    6. September 4, 2020 Special Board Meeting
  E. Correspondence
II. Management Reports
  A. Executive Director's Report
  B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
  C. Power Plant , DE5 and DE7 Update
III. Committee Reports
IV. Old Business
  A. CHCC Billing/Payment Update
V. New Business
VI. Public Comments*
VII. Executive Session**
  (Consultation with Legal Counsel on Personnel Matters, Contracts, and Board Communications)
VIII. Announcements
IX. Adjournment

* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-029

TINIAN MAUI WELL II REHABILITATION PROJECT
(W17-054)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new pump control panel, variable frequency drive (VFD), flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, check valves, interior/exterior painting of the facility and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-029, *Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

$5K bail for woman who allegedly beat boyfriend

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court imposed a $5,000 cash bail on a woman who was arrested for allegedly beating her boyfriend over a missing cellphone charger.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed the $5,000 cash bail on Kimberly Olkeriil Kaipa, 37, is charged with domestic violence: assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At the bail hearing last week, the Public Defender's Office was appointed to represent Kaipat while assistant attorney general Erin Toolan appeared for the government.

After the hearing, Kaipat was remanded back to the custody of the Department of Corrections and was ordered to return to court for a preliminary hearing on Sept. 23 at 10am and for arraignment on Sept. 28 at 9am.

According to court documents, police received a domestic violence call on Sept. 14, after Kaipat got upset with her boyfriend over a cell phone and allegedly pulled his hair. Police said she also allegedly pushed him down, causing him to hit his face on the ground.

On Sept. 15, Kaipat again got angry at her boyfriend, this time over the charger of the cell phone, the documents state.

The victim told police that when he tried to get away from Kaipat, she allegedly chased him and when she got close, she reportedly scratched his face, pulled his hair, and slammed him to the ground.

He said he flagged down a police vehicle for assistance. Medics were also called because the victim complained of pain on his head and elbow.

The victim added that Kaipat is two months pregnant.

GINSBURG

From Page 1

were beginning to cast ballots.

For months, the contest has largely centered on President Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus, the biggest public health crisis in a century that has badly damaged his prospects for reelection as the U.S. death toll nears 200,000 people.

But in a flash, Ginsburg's death on Friday added new weight to the election, with the potential that Trump or his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, could pick a successor who could decide abortion access, environmental regulations and the power of the presidency for a generation.

With early voting underway in five states and Election Day just over six weeks away, Democrats and Republicans were largely unified late Friday in praising Ginsburg as a leading legal thinker and advocate for women's rights. But strategists in both parties also seized on the moment to find an advantage.

Facing the prospect of losing both the White House and the Senate, some Republicans viewed the Supreme Court vacancy as one of the few avenues remaining for Trump to galvanize supporters beyond his most loyal core of supporters, particularly suburban women who have abandoned the GOP in recent years.

ECONOMY

From Page 1

forum last Friday, where the plight of CNMI's intangible assess—its coral reefs and pristine natural resources—and plans to forward this stewardship for the long haul were discussed.

According to David Benavente, lead marine biologist of the marine monitoring program of the CNMI Coastal Resources Management and Division of Environmental Quality, they have been working on "Coral Restoration and Resiliency Planning Opportunities" in the CNMI.

"We have been monitoring the challenges that our coral reefs experience, what they are going through and we have come up with priorities…[and] plans for the next 10 years," he said.

In the past decade, the CNMI has seen several large bleaching events, when coral reefs become sickly due to warmer-than-normal waters and local stressors.

The first such bleaching event that was documented in the CNMI was in 2013, followed by another in 2014. There was another large bleaching event in 2017, which killed about 90% of corals within the Saipan lagoon.

"Due to global climate changes, we see more large number of corals degraded in the CNMI," he said.

Benavente said that global warming is the strongest stressor of reefs in the CNMI. "Global warming, which results in a rise in sea temperature, causes many bleaching in many corals. Corals are stressed when they have been exposed to higher sea surface temperatures and what happens is the algae in the cells get ejected from the corals and the corals turn white," he said. "The algae is the one that gives the corals colors and, when they are bleached, the corals are more sick and more vulnerable to disease. They are not dead yet. In fact, they can recover and survive if exposure to the elements is lessened or the temperature of the water decreases."

On the other hand, local stressors that contribute to coral bleaching include marine debris, especially after Super Typhoon Yutu, when there were a lot of tin, tires, nets, and other different debris that were swept out to sea. "A lot of these got caught up in corals, in habitats and they tear them apart. …We also see problems with water quality caused by inadequate drainage and water run offs as these affect coral reefs negatively," he said.

"What we have seen in recent years is that if these global stressors continue to happen in increments of two to three years, then corals have less chances of surviving because they cannot recover," he said.

Then there is also the presence of predatory sea star outbreaks, which feeds on corals and there's been a mild outbreak of those in the CNMI the past years.

From 2008 to 2019, studies show that coral bleaching events have increased on a lot of sites on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. "In the state of the reef report card of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, data collected from the National Coral Reef Ecological monitoring program based in Hawaii, which does ecological monitoring through our 14 islands and throughout the Pacific, basically states that the CNMI as a whole is doing okay. But most of its coral reefs are dead," Benavente said.

"…Most of the reefs are dealing with climate changes and most islands, except for the Northern Islands, are dealing with fisheries impact. The southern islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—are more affected than the Northern Islands because of human population. The greater amount of human population, the greater the amount of stress for the ecosystem," he added.

To save and sustain the coral reefs in the CNMI, goals have been set for the next 10 years. "The first would be to improve the conditions of CNMI's reef ecosystems by reducing the amount of sediment, nutrients and other land-based sources of pollution in CNMI watersheds. [The] second [goal is] building an ecosystem based on fishery management approach that sustains fishery resources for cultural recreational, and commercial pursuits to have a healthy, resilient coral reef ecosystem that's better adapted to the effects of climate change. Lastly, to have an improved coral reef ecosystem health and accelerated recovery through restoration efforts." Benavente said.

By 2027, the idea is to develop and implement adaptive, resilience-based management strategies. By 2029, the CNMI should already have an improved monitoring program that assesses the long- and short-term impacts of climate change. The development of a restoration plan has to be made in partnership with NOAA, OPD, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and CRM, he added.

Another speaker at the forum, DFW Fisheries biologist Trey Dunn, said his office is coming up with projects that are related to Benavente's goals. The Saipan Western Lagoon Coral Reef Fisheries Ecosystem Management Plan aims to focus on a broader area of the whole western lagoon and come up with a management plan so that coral ecosystem data or information will help other agencies in the CNMI.

"We can incorporate a lot of things from…different agencies that are collecting data in that area…to put all of these things into perspective in regards to fisheries as we are going to use a lot of different information," he added.

Dunn said that this management plan is underway. "…Part of the plan is to hire a coral reef ecologist that will help us manage this whole plan…"

"The first year is about acquiring all the information. …We are currently applying for funding for the next two years of it. …On the second year, we will try to get more input for the plan developed from the first year such as public input…information that we missed in year one. Collate and put all of the data and information into a plan and finalize it going into Year 2. The third year is about the outreach of the plan and implementation," he added.

DHS sues woman for alleged visa fraud

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Department of Homeland Security has filed a complaint with the U.S. District Court for the NMI against a woman who allegedly committed visa fraud to renew her CNMI driver's license.

Yaping Tao, a citizen of the People's Republic of China, is accused of document and visa fraud and is charged with conspiracy to commit fraud in connection with visas, and fraud and misuse of visas, permits, and other documents.

According to the complaint filed by Homeland Security Investigation special agent David West, he conducted an immigration record check on Tao after identifying a vehicle registered in her name. West determined that Tao has no legal immigration status to be in the U.S.

West said he contacted the CNMI Bureau of Motor Vehicles to verify if Tao had ever applied for a CNMI driver's license and BMV confirmed that she applied for two separate CNMI driver's licenses in 2012 and 2015.

Tao told the HSI investigator through an interpreter that she obtained her first driver's license legally in 2012 by taking a written test and a driving test.

When her 2012 driver's license was about to expire, Tao allegedly asked around about renewing it and that a friend told her about an unnamed Chinese woman who could help her get a driver's license.

Tao said she knew that she could not renew her driver's license because she did not have legal immigration status, but she paid that friend over $250 to help renew her license.

Tao said she signed a blank BMV application and gave her old CNMI driver's license to her friend.

After paying the fee, Tao said she went to BMV and only had to take a photo for her license and she never submitted any documents to BMV.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

1 MORE

From Page 1

Resort in Susupe for monitoring. Contact tracing for immediate contacts, including passengers on the same flight, has already begun.

Meanwhile, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña assured that the Sara Alert System that they have been using has been effective and that they have not received any concerns.

The Sara Alert System is not an app on a phone but simply a text or call system for individuals who will respond to a set of questions that involves their health. CHCC staff and contact tracers are the ones monitoring the individuals' health and address if they need to be tested.

The Sara Alert System will be for a time period of 14 days and will alert health officials/public health staff if an individual missed their daily check. Additionally, since it's a sense of trust between the individual and the contact tracer/public health staff, Muña stated that it's not a violation of privacy. It's solely just a matter of checking.

Muña said that people who are put into the Sara Alert System are usually those who are considered of risk and someone who just arrived on Saipan. People who are deemed as low risk but has been in contact with someone who has been identified as positive for COVID-19 will also be put into Sara Alert System for contact tracing.

ABSENTEE

From Page 1

Oct. 9 is the deadline to request for absentee voting by electronic/mail.

When asked who are eligible for absentee voting, she said that covers any registered voter who is going to be off-island on election day and for those who are concerned about going to the polling sites and being exposed to possible infection.

Villagomez said the CEC commissioners will hold a meeting today, Tuesday, at CEC office in Susupe at 1pm. At the meeting the commissioners will talk about the designation of polling places, the COVID-19 situation, and the designation of two CEC staff who will pick up the absentee ballots at the post office.

Villagomez said the commissioners will also discuss proposed standard operating procedures governing the election and the problematic registration/absentee applications. This refers to some people who registered off-island or elsewhere where they are currently at.

"If you are registered in the [United] States, and you try to register here, you are no longer claiming Saipan as your residence," she said, adding that the commissioners will talk about this issue at the meeting.

As for the tabulating machines, Villagomez said they are expecting the two big machines and four smaller ones to arrive from Nebraska in the middle part of October.

BAIL

From Page 3

he could hear Nimwes calling out to him but he said he was scared. Later, Ray said, Nimwes met up with him at Downtown carrying a bunch of shirts, a cellphone, and cash. Ray said Nimwes gave him some shirts, the cellphone, and $40.

However, in a follow-up interview, Ray admitted that at around 2am on Sept. 12, Nimwes told Ray to follow him to rob the bar next to Downtown and he obliged. However, at the bar, Nimwes was unable to steal anything so the two crossed the street toward The Shack.

At The Shack, Ray said Nimwes punched a window twice, shattering it. Nimwes then entered the establishment and came back bringing T-shirts and a cellphone and an envelope full of money.

Nimwes did not give a statement.

'TOGETHER, WE CAN'

Destination enhancements get widespread support

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres describes the response to the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' initiative, called the Public-Private Partnership, as very encouraging.

The initiative, which aims to bring the community together to help in the maintenance and development of CNMI parks, landmarks, and tourist sites, has already drawn the commitment of 20 public and private groups.

Under the initiative, these 20 groups have signed up for a five-year commitment to the Public-Private Partnership campaign by submitting project proposals, while several organizations have already started improving their adopted sites.

The GCEA's Public-Private Partnership campaign encourages government agencies, the business and education sectors, the many ethnic groups on island, and non-government organizations to adopt tourist sites or any significant locations/areas in the villages on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and maintain them.

Over the last several weeks, beautification and clean-up drives have been done in beaches, parks, pavilions, and other attractions on the islands, while hiking and bike trails were cleared. Others did site assessments and have identified potential partners.

Torres, who chairs the GCEA, expressed his deep appreciation to the groups that committed to the PPP and praised them for their swift response. The governor said the groups' involvement in the destination enhancement program reflects how the CNMI, as one community, is taking pro-active steps at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic and is keenly preparing to welcome back visitors.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The bridge near the Quartermaster Road along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway went through repairs and improvement under the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public-Private Partnership initiative.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI and the Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation provide an illustration of the signage that they are proposing to use at the North Trails in Marpi.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

ADOPTING GROUPS	ADOPTED SITES
E-Land Group	Paupau Beach
Bridge Capital	Garapan Central Park
Rotary Club of Saipan and Emon Lodge 179	Suicide Cliff
Rota Mayor's Office, FilCorp, and Hotel Valentino	Songsong Village and Pinatang Park
Lions Club International	Sugar Dock Beach
TanHoldings	Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway and Bird Island Lookout
Commonwealth Ports Authority Airport Operators Committee, and POI Aviation	Airport Access Road
Triathlon Association of the CNMI and NMI Cycling Federation	North Trails (Marpi)
CTSI Logistics	Ladder Beach
Northern Mariana Islands Football Association	Koblerville Villlage
United Filipino Organization	San Isidro Beach Park Laly 4
Korean Community of Saipan	Micro Beach
Kanoa Resort and Chinese Association of Saipan	Susupe Beach Park

"We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to be a part of the Public-Private Partnership initiative in the development and maintenance of the CNMI parks and tourist sites. E-Land Group has been engaged in a number of projects to improve public infrastructure and has been taking care of Paupau Beach Park for visitors' safety and convenience since 2016. As an official partner of the CNMI government, we will continue to advance the adopted site with an even deeper commitment," said E-Land Group/Micronesia Resort Inc. chief executive officer Brian Shin.

The Rotary Club of Saipan, led by its president, Sonya Dancoe, sees the PPP as an opportunity to create projects that mirror the organizations' mission, which is to provide services that promote education, health and wellness, environment protection, and economic and community development.

The UFO is encouraging other groups to take part in this endeavor. "At this point, the best way to help boost tourism in the CNMI is to market the islands as a world-class destination. Tourists can help bring back a vibrant economy, which would provide employment opportunities for everyone living in the CNMI. Help beautify, clean, and restore and maintain these sites for all our visitors to see and for us to take pride in them," the group said.

The GCEA is expecting more groups will come aboard as it talks with other stakeholders. Adopted sites are not limited to places frequented by tourists. They could be any area in a certain village, government-owned sports venues, youth centers, playgrounds, and other sites and facilities that need improvements and maintenance, allowing residents and visitors to maximize their usage.

"Let's continue to work together on projects that will further encourage visitors to come to our beautiful islands. The many groups that have contributed to this initiative are much appreciated and their assistance will go a long way as we step up to help the CNMI go through this pandemic, boost our economic gains, protect our environment, and improve the lives of everyone who call our beautiful islands home. Together, we can," Torres said. ***(PR)***

Flood advisory on Rota

The national Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam issued an urban and small stream flood advisory for Rota yesterday morning.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service-Tiyan Guam and compiled at CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, doppler radar indicated heavy rain due to heavy showers on Rota mid-morning that were expected to cause urban and small stream flooding.

An additional 1 to 2 inches of rain were also likely over most of Rota.

If you will be driving, be alert for flooded roads and low visibility in heavy rain. If you see lightning or hear thunder, seek shelter indoors. Turn around, don't drown when encountering flooded roads. Most flood deaths occur in vehicles. Rota residents were cautioned to be mindful of the precautionary/preparedness actions and to stay informed on the latest statements and advisories. ***(PR)***

Guam is granted $112K more to develop capacity of NGOs, protect 2 Guam birds

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An additional $112,000 in fiscal year 2020 grant funding has been awarded to Guam through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program. The funds will provide training and capacity development for non-profit organizations in Guam and repair the captive-breeding facility for two of Guam's indigenous birds that are now extinct in the wild. The new funds are on top of the nearly $3 million in Technical Assistance Program fiscal year 2020 funds announced for Guam earlier this year.

A total of $80,000 will be used by the Guam non-profit organization *Mañe'lu*, the Micronesian Resource Center One-Stop Shop, to sponsor and expand leadership training and education opportunities necessary to strengthen the capacity of nonprofit organizations in Guam that work closely with freely associated state and Chamorro populations, including their own staff. Two such non-profit organizations that work with *Mañe'lu* are *Victim Advocates Reaching Out,* which works to provide crisis response to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and *West Care Pacific Islands*, which trains youth-serving organizations about trauma-informed care, teen coping, and positive youth development.

A total of $32,000 will go to the Guam Department of Agriculture to be used to repair and replace fencing around the captive-breeding facility for two of Guam's indigenous birds: the Guam Rail *(Hypotaenidia owstoni)*, or the ko'ko' as known in Chamorro, and the Guam Kingfisher *(Todiramphus cinnamominus)*, or sihek. The fencing will keep out snakes and feral animals to help ensure continued breeding of these two rare birds, indigenous to Guam, that no longer exist in the wild. ***(PR)***

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Bridge Capital, LLC

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC, Plaintiff, v. SYLVAN O. IGISOMAR, Defendant. — Civil Case No. 20-0104 — NOTICE OF SALE

Plaintiff Bridge Capital, LLC **("Bridge")** hereby gives notice that, in order to satisfy sums due pursuant to the stipulated judgment entered June 12, 2020 in favor of Bridge, and pursuant to the Court Order dated September 8, 2020 authorizing a foreclosure sale (the **"Sale Order"**), the auctioneer designated in the Sale Order will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.,** the following parcel of real property:

Lot 1944NEW-1-R2, situated at Chalan Laulau, Saipan, containing an area of 22,589 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat no. 2031/10, the original of which was recorded May 26, 2010 under File No. 10-888 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan (the **"Property"**).

PARTIAL TERMS OF SALE

1. **Auction Location.** The auction will be held in the first floor conference room of the Bridge Capital building located at Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.
2. **Auction Procedure.** The auctioneer designated by the Court will conduct an auction via competitive bidding. The bidding will remain open until the auctioneer declares that the bidding is closed. If a dispute arises between bidders, the auctioneer shall make the final decision either to determine the successful bidder or to resell the Property.
3. **Auctioneer's Rights.** The auctioneer may do any of the following: (1) withdraw the Property from sale at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; (2) adjourn the auction without notice, at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; (3) reject any bid, for any reason; or (4) expel a bidder from the auction location.
4. **Bids.** Bidders may submit bids in advance for the Property. These bids will not be binding. The highest advance bid will become the opening bid for the Property on the day of the auction. During the bidding, bidders may make bids in person or by telephone.
5. **Deposit.** The successful bidder shall provide to Bridge an earnest money deposit, by check, cashier's check, or money order, equal to 10.00% of the winning bid amount (the "Deposit"). Bridge will apply the Deposit toward the amount of the winning bid. If the winning bidder fails to deliver the Deposit to Bridge before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the auction, the winning bidder's bid will be deemed to be automatically rejected, without further notice to the winning bidder. A bidder who bids by telephone shall comply with the deposit requirement.
6. **Sale Terms.** The winning bidder shall pay the full amount of the winning bid to Seller, by check, cashier's check, or money order, no later than 10 business days after winning the auction. The closing will occur at Seller's office at Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The sale will be closed by Daniel T. Guidotti, Seller's attorney. The winning bidder may request that the closing proceed through escrow, subject to the winning bidder paying 100% of all escrow fees.
7. **Property Sold "AS-IS WHERE IS."** The Property is being sold in "AS IS WHERE IS" condition. Bridge and the auctioneer make no representations, express or implied, with respect to the Property regarding title, area, location, suitability of the Property for any particular purpose, the existence or condition of any improvements situated on the leased Property, or the existence or non-existence of any conditions that might affect development of the Property (such as zoning, hazardous waste, historical preservation issues, threatened or endangered species, and wetlands).
8. **Changes to Auction Terms.** Either Bridge or the auctioneer may change or add to these terms or any additional terms prior to or at the auction. An oral announcement made at the auction will supersede anything in writing, including these terms. All changes made in this manner will be binding on the winning bidder.
9. **Additional Terms.** Additional terms apply. Interested bidders may obtain these additional terms from the attorney for Bridge, Attorney Daniel T. Guidotti. Bidders may request this information by telephone at (670) 322-2222 or via email at dtguidotti@bccnmi.com. All bidders are responsible for knowing these additional terms prior to bidding on the Property.

/s/
Bartley A. Jackson
Auctioneer

Remembering 9/11

PHOTOS By NEIL FAMA

Despite this year's COVID-19 pandemic, TanHoldings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation still pushed through with its 5th Field of Heroes" event at the American Memorial Park last Sept. 11, 2020, to recognize and honor all community heroes like the police, firefighters, and the CNMI's first responders. A total of 500 flags containing the names of all community heroes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, were planted at the AMP. The park's flag itself at the Court of Honor was lowered to half-staff to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the Set. 11, 2001, attacks and to honor all who perished in the attacks. Later that same day, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services participated in a roadside waving at the Atkins Kroll Intersection in San Jose, in the spirit of unity and remembering all Sept. 11 heroes.

OIA awards $6.8M to US territories for energy projects

WASHINGTON, D.C. The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has awarded U.S. territories a total of $6.8 million to support energy initiatives, with the CNMI getting a total of $1,706,075 that will be divided among four agencies.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will get $1,377,200 to be used for three separate projects. Funds will be used to purchase and install 1,600 pre-pay electrical meters on Saipan and Rota; employ a solar-energy systems engineer to provide the technical professional capacity to make on-site technical and electrical decisions in the field of solar photovoltaic and renewables technologies; and acquire a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system for each of the engines at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base on Saipan.

The CNMI's Department of Public Works will get $212,920 to increase the amount of Energy Star/Energy efficiency rebates being offered by the State Energy Program as an incentive for residents to replace old and inefficient appliances and reduce overall energy and utility costs.

The Office of the Governor will get $77,530 to apply a cool roof system to three facilities at the CNMI government complex on Capital Hill.

A total of $38,425 will go to the Office of Women's Affairs to install several energy efficiency measures, including a cool roof system, LED lighting, and window reflective film.

In Guam, the Guam Contractors Association Trades Academy will get $2,248,010 to design and construct a full-size commercial solar photovoltaic panels array and storage facility. This is expected to reduce operational costs and provide a real-life laboratory to train technicians in PV installation and maintenance.

In American Samoa, a total of $1,947,400 will be used for two different initiatives to be conducted by the American Samoa Power Authority.

The U.S. Virgin Islands will get a total of $898,515. The University of the Virgin Islands will get $323,515; the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority will get $575,000.

"Lowering the cost of energy to consumers and business is a keystone to President Trump's energy initiatives" said Douglas W. Domenech, Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs. "This support through Interior will fund a range of energy initiatives in the territories that will reduce energy costs and increase energy efficiency by replacing older appliances, analyzing current usage, retrofitting older buildings, and exploring alternative energy options proposed in territorial Energy Action Plans."

The grant, provided through the OIA's Energizing Insular Communities program for fiscal year 2020, is broken down into:

The OIA's Energizing Insular Communities program is made available each year by Congress to support energy priorities in the U.S. territories. For more information on grant assistance provided through OIA, visit: https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance. ***(PR)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars every Thursday in October. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **Sept. 24 – Responding to Requests for Proposals (RFPs) –** The Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP.

■ **Oct. 1 – Teaming & Joint Ventures –** What are they and which is right for your business? The Guam PTAC will discuss the Federal regulations related to these arrangements and discuss ways to use these arrangements effectively.

■ **Oct. 8 – All Small Mentor-Protégé Program** – Small businesses can team up with large businesses and go after contracts normally set-aside for small businesses only. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements and how to apply for this SBA program.

■ **Oct. 15 – Marketing to the Federal Government** – The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list".

■ **Oct. 22 – FAR Clauses Explained –** Confused by all the FAR clauses referenced in government solicitations? The Guam PTAC will demystify these Federal Acquisition Regulations. Join us as we explain many of the common FAR clauses found in Federal solicitations.

■ **Oct. 29 – Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment** – Do you have a DOD contract and need to get paid? The Guam PTAC will explain DOD invoicing procedures using the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system.

Register on our website, http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

The sardine-can ukulele: Finding the harmony between past and present

The Yeh-Yeh series shares rich stories and oral traditions of Saipan. The name is inspired by Refaluwasch elder Lino Olapai's childhood memory of being told to say "yehyeh" as the elders told stories. Once it was quiet, the elders knew the children were asleep.

Yeh-Yeh

By LINDSAY NASH
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Lindsay Nash is a writer and photographer who lives on Saipan. She is a member of the Marianas Writers' Movement and is currently writing a novel about 20th century Saipan. To contact her, send an email to lindsayinsaipan@gmail.com.

Lino Olopai's eyes shine as he stands on the front porch of his tin-roof bungalow on the western lagoon of Saipan. He holds a silver sardine can, a round hole cut through the center. A wooden rod runs through it.

He strums the imaginary strings and sings, *la-lah-la-lah-la-hhhh*. His beguiling smile greets his memories: the mid-1940s after the war, and as a 5-year-old boy, he had just heard the sound of the ukulele for the first time.

"Out of the blue, we heard this sweet lovely melody," Olopai said. "And we just ran toward it."

The music was coming from a group of Hawaiian men who were working to clean up the island after the war. One man stood plucking a makeshift bass made of an oil can, some twigs and nylon. Another man strummed a ukulele.

"The guy was stepping on that old gas can, tapping it and plucking those strings. *Boom. Boom. Boom.* And, as kids, we just sat right there under their noses and stared up at them."

It looked and sounded nothing like the traditional Carolinian stick dance Olopai had grown up with in their ceremonies.

SPOTLIGHT

He soon made his own ukulele, finding an old sardine can, cutting a hole in the middle, and running strings up and down a *tangan-tangan* branch. He was one of the first ukulele students on the island.

Thus started Olopai's dance between his traditional Carolinian traditions and the Western world. Born in 1940, he was only 4 when his family hid in a cave during the American invasion, his elders scared for their lives as spotter planes rained bullets down around them.

For Olopai, he was simply curious. What was this ping-ping sound against the rock? And, then, while living in the internment camp, what was that wonderful sweet the GIs threw out of their trucks? He quickly learned his first English words: "Hey Joe, have candy!"

Olopai considers himself lucky. After the war, as the oldest son, he was pulled out of the one school on island—where he shared one English textbook with his classmates—to help his family and learn their Refaluwasch traditions. He fished with the elders, blew the conch to announce community meetings, and sat for hours on the meeting house floor listening quietly to their chief's booming voice. This is when he first learned that he had family on other islands. Family who were good fishermen, great canoe builders, celestial navigators and medicine healers.

But the Western world beckoned again when Olopai was recruited to teach Chamorro and Carolinian for the U.S. Peace Corps on island, where he befriended a group of young, outspoken Americans who told him, "Hey, you *can* speak up to your government."

As the plebiscite loomed on the horizon to choose the island's governing future, Olopai was caught in the balance between his Carolinian traditions and a new civil government. Leaders born into their role as chief versus leaders elected by choice.

Lino Olopai still feels deeply connected to his Refaluwasch culture. LINDSAY NASH

Lino Olopai strums his homemade ukulele as he reminisces about hearing Hawaiian music for the first time as a young boy. LINDSAY NASH

As the island politics heated up, Olopai knew—the island would become part of the United States.

"I knew it would impact my language and culture as a minority Carolinian," Olopai said. "Where am I going to be in this new government that I know nothing about? It was scary for me to be in that situation."

When the opportunity came to sail to his ancestral home in the Caroline Islands, he took it, sailing 15 days on a traditional Carolinian canoe to the island of Satawal.

"I thought I was going to die," he said, remembering how he bailed water out of the deep canoe the entire journey.

He stayed for three years in his ancestral islands, an experience that changed him, reinforcing much of what he had learned growing up.

And when Olopai returned to Saipan, he was reconnected to his culture. But it's no easy task—to balance tradition with a changing world. And, now, at 80, Olopai still worries about the future.

"Our education system is very imbalanced—a Western-written history that we've fed our kids from Kindergarten to college."

Olopai stands on his front porch and looks up to the ironwoods that tower above him and out toward the shining sea.

"Do you know fish hide under the sand? Do you know they change color? Be careful—that's a sea urchin. Or, that's a poisonous fish, don't eat it. We don't have this knowledge anymore."

He picks up his sardine-can ukulele, made for the upcoming Ukulele Festival. He smiles and laughs, shaking his head at his memories.

"Man, we were having a blast," Olopai said. "What else did we have to do? No rice cooker. No McDonald's. No movie theater. So this is it. And, it was just awesome."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an exemplary justice

The loss of Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a double blow. It will be felt as a personal loss by millions of Americans, and it will stress America's politics at a moment when its fabric is already threatening to come apart. Consider this a measure of the country's current plight: What could be sadder than to fear that the death of a selfless and extraordinary public servant is more likely in the coming weeks to divide the nation than unite it?

Justice Ginsburg taught many lessons over the course of her career in the law. One of the most important will be easy to overlook, even though it offers a corrective for the country's current debility. She exemplified the power of calm intellectual force, patiently applied—and proved that deeply felt disagreement was compatible with discourse and collegiality.

Building on the work of others (as she always insisted), she transformed the country's legal order even before taking her place on the highest court, dismantling piece by piece a system of legally supported discrimination against women. Her method was ingenious. She fought cases that highlighted the absurdity of the prevailing rules in ways that forced men, hitherto complacent in the face of unacknowledged injustice, to see what they were accustomed to ignore.

In 1975, for instance, she successfully challenged a Social Security rule that saw women as secondary earners and denied husbands survivor benefits on the death of their wives. In this as in other cases, she represented the male victim of discrimination directed against women. Over the course of years, through successful advocacy and deliberate selection of cases, this strategy built a new understanding of what the law owed women: in a word, equality.

Justice Ginsburg was a liberal, to be sure, but not a stereotypical one. She often favored judicial restraint—and had reservations about Roe v. Wade, for instance, despite believing ardently in a woman's right to choose. She feared that it had got too far ahead of public opinion, and might foreclose a debate that needed to take place. In this sense, she recognized the limits of judge-made law. She could disagree with the conservative judges without falling out. She was a pragmatic liberal incrementalist, not a revolutionary—and she demonstrated just how powerful that approach could be.

She would have been the first to admit that her timing, at the end, fell short of her high standards. Her empty seat is almost certain to mean a bitter fight over who succeeds her, starting weeks before a crucial election. There's every prospect that this battle will worsen the country's crippling divisions, and further undermine the court's standing as an institution that holds itself apart from prevailing partisan dysfunction. That is a prospect she would have deplored. All who wish to honor her memory, Republicans and Democrats alike, should keep this in mind—and strive, against the odds, to put the integrity of the institution first.

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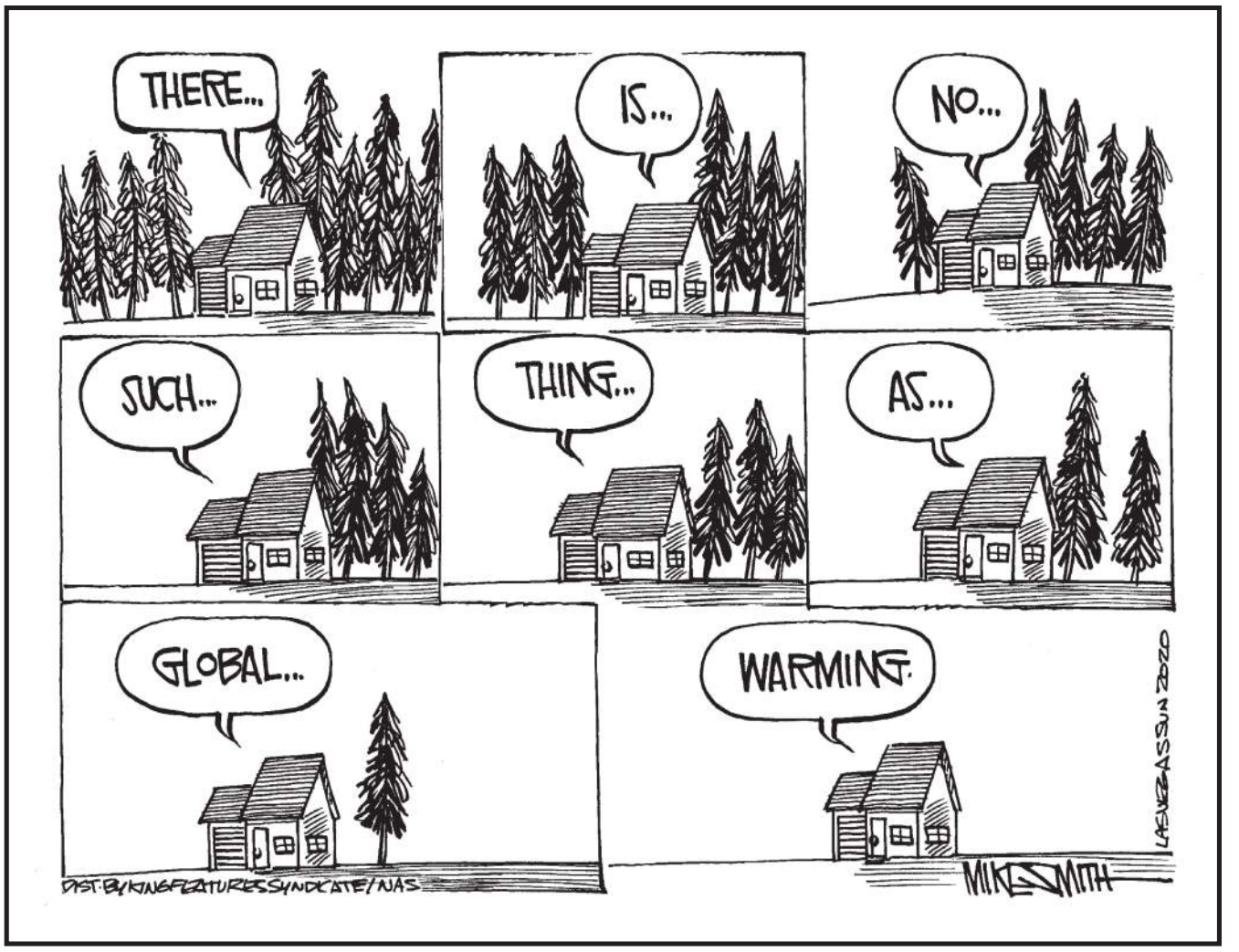

5 estate-planning myths that stop you from helping yourself and your loved ones

FINE PRINT
By JORDAN SUNDELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!

How many people have a will (or a trust)? Most people? About half of them? How about a third? The answer is that around 60 to 70% of people have done zero estate planning, according to recent studies. That's a dismal percentage considering that everyone is guaranteed to need some estate planning, whether to deal with periods of incapacity or to pass forward our stuff when we die.

If we all need at least some estate planning, then why do so many of us delay taking even the most basic steps? In part, it's because we tend to put off things that seem difficult or unpleasant. And estate planning fits that bill. After all, who wants to think about dying or becoming incapacitated?

But avoidance of estate planning is not just because we want to ignore our mortality; it's also the product of myths that justify our inclination to procrastinate. Let's talk about five of those myths.

Myth #1: It will work out on its own

Sort of. To be sure, the state has created a default plan for dealing with your property if you failed to make your own. This default approach is known as the law of intestacy. Under it, your assets will be collected, your debts tabulated, and your stuff distributed. But you'll have no say in who gets what or how much. And the entire process will last months, if not years, before your heirs receive anything.

The default rules are even less exciting if you are alive but unwell. For instance, what happens if you are in a coma or have dementia? In other words, if you are alive but not well enough to make important decisions on your own, who can do that for you? Without the right estate-planning documents, usually a court will need to decide that—a slow, expensive, and often embarrassing process. But if you have the right documents in place, these issues can be handled swiftly in a manner you already decided by someone you previously selected.

Myth #2: I don't need it yet

The idea here is that estate planning is only for the old and unhealthy. But what about the simplest case: A young, single adult. What happens if they get in a serious car accident? Who can make medical decisions for them? The answer might surprise you. The reality is that even young people should have several simple estate-planning documents like a financial power of attorney and a medical power of attorney to address worst-case scenarios.

Myth #3: Planning will cause family conflict

People prefer to avoid conflict. It's messy; it's uncomfortable. And having conversations with your family about what they will—and will not—be receiving when you die can be quite uncomfortable. But if you think avoiding conflict now will save trouble later, then you are ignoring how the world works. Problems don't go away; they grow until they explode.

That's even more true in the estate-planning realm. Death is an inherently emotional time. Everyone is wounded and sensitive. It's also an unstable time, especially if you were the family leader or the glue that held it together. Talk about a powder keg. And all it takes to go boom is two heirs disagreeing over who should get what. In short, not planning your estate is a great way to prime the stage for events that could splinter your family after you pass away.

Myth #4: I'm not rich enough to need a plan

This myth is a close cousin of Myth #2 (I don't need it yet). It thrives on the mistaken belief that estate planning is just about money. It's not. Estate planning is holistic. In addition to money, it's about your legacy, how to handle health crises and, if you have children, what happens to them if you die or become incapacitated.

Myth #5: Planning is not worth the price

Estate planning is not free. It's going to cost money. But not planning our estate also comes with costs—often the much high-

See 5 on Next Page

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The legacy of the Commonwealth's founding fathers to our people

By EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands recently honored the Founding Fathers of the Commonwealth with a commemorative resolution "for their monumental contribution and unselfish dedication to improving the quality of life for the people of the CNMI." The resolution further states that "while the Covenant was not a perfect document, our Commonwealth negotiators, through their diligent efforts, professionalism, dedication and commitment, produced a historic and binding agreement that has served and protected our interests for the past 42 years."

As one of the four living recipients of the resolution, I was deeply moved, honored and grateful to the NMI Democratic Party officials, members and candidates for their magnanimous and generous remembrance of our Founding Fathers.

I was privileged to serve as chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission back in August 1972 when it was instituted by District Law 3-124. There were 15 original members of the MPSC appointed to represent the Marianas District Legislature: Vicente N. Santos and Felipe A. Salas; Congress of Micronesia, Edward DLG Pangelinan and Herman Q. Guerrero; Rota Municipal Council, Benjamin T. Manglona and Joannes R. Taimanao; Tinian Municipal Council Herman M. Manglona and Francisco A. Hocog; Saipan Municipal Council, Daniel T. Muña and Vicente T. Camacho; Northern Islands, Olympio T. Borja; Popular Party, Joaquin I. Pangelinan; Territorial Party, Francisco T. Palacios; United Carolinians Association, Felix F. Rabauliman; and the Business Association, Jose C. Tenorio.

During the course of 2 ½ years of political status negotiations with the President's Personal Representative of the United States, 21 of our citizens served and participated in the deliberations of the negotiations. Several of the original members resigned from the commission due to personal reasons and the following citizens: Juan LG Cabrera, Pedro A. Tenorio, Oscar C. Rasa, Jose R. Cruz, Bernard V. Hofscneider, and Manuel A. Sablan joined the commission.

As a Founding Father of the Commonwealth, I am profoundly grateful to our Lord for keeping me alive these 42 years and to stand and bear witness to all the benefits that our people are now enjoying under the Covenant. The commemorative resolution has given me the opportunity to reminisce about the men who accepted the awesome responsibility to change the course of our destiny. I can hear clearly the voices and see vividly the faces of all my colleagues in MPSC. And I am grateful for the rare privilege and opportunity to work with 21 honorable men of our islands, who possessed impeccable integrity, honesty, humility, friendship, spiritual upbringing, remarkable sense of humor and dedication to the negotiations of the Covenant To Establish A Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America.

On the first session of the Status Negotiations on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 1972, at Mount Carmel High School Auditorium at 10am on Saipan, the members of MPSC first met the members of the United States Status Delegation, consisting of the Honorable Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, personal representative of the President of the United States, Mr. James M. Wilson, Deputy Chairman, Captain William J. Crowe, Jr., USN, Captain Gordon J. Schuller, USN, Stanley S. Carpenter from the Department of the Interior, Herman Marcuse from the Department of Justice, Adrian deGraffenried from Department of Interior and Mary Vance Trent from the Department of State.

At the time, I was overwhelmed by my impression of the enormous advantage the U.S. Delegation had in comparison to tiny MPSC. Here standing before us was the representatives of the federal government and supported by the full resources of the United States of America. On the MPSC side, we had 15 common citizens, supported by our brilliant legal counsel, Howard P. Willens of the Washington Law Firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, our resourceful and talented economist, James R. Leonard of James R. Leonard Associates, Inc., our capable executive director, James E. White, Joseph F. Screen and a few staff, and with meager financial resources. But I was standing tall and very proud of my team. We were ordinary citizens, but all of us fully understood our history of 400 years of colonization and subjugation of our people by the Spaniards, Germans, and Japanese, and we firmly believed that our people deserve a better and decent life for this and future generations to come. Several of the members of the commission had experienced and witnessed the horror of the invasion of Saipan during World War II. Several of us had to leave home for an extended period of time to seek advanced education outside of the Northern Mariana Islands. We had survived the trials, tribulations and challenges living under the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. We stood ready, able and willing to embark on an historic journey for the best interest of all our citizens.

I believe it is useful to review the basic motivation underlying separate status negotiations for the Marianas back between 1972 and 1975:

First, the people of the Marianas did not want the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement to go on indefinitely. Our people felt strongly that the present status (Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands)—no matter how well-intended—was outmoded and inappropriate. Change was necessary despite inevitable risks and we believed that our people have the sovereign right of self-determination and to exercise that right as do other people in the world.

Second, we felt that the Marianas people were ready for self-government. The members of the District Legislature and the Marianas Political Status Commission were well aware that self-government carries with it new burdens and responsibilities, as well as new opportunities and challenges. And we looked forward to the day when the people of the Marianas controlled their own destiny.

Third, the political status negotiations reflected the high value we place on the freedoms and democratic form of government that mark the American political system. We wanted a government that assured these rights and freedoms as well as the recognition of the fundamental equality of all men under the law.

Fourth, the Marianas Political Status Commission was created to plan for the future—not to relive the past. The commission was striving to create a political status that was designed to meet the pressing demands of the present and the unknown demands of the future. The members of the Commission were fully aware and recognized the practical limitations of a small island community in dealing with the anticipated problems of the 21st. century and beyond. For this reason, the Marianas Political Status Commission was charged with the responsibility for designing a relationship with the United States of America that offers support and security for our people, as well as opportunity for development and self-government.

The Covenant To Establish A Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America is now fully implemented. We have a functioning and dynamic self-government, our people are U.S. citizens, we have an elected representative in the U.S. Congress, and the Northern Mariana Islands has become the fifth territory of the United States. Our people and our islands have contributed to the expansion of the United States jurisdiction of over 240,000 square miles of the Western Pacific Ocean.

Our people are blessed with the unlimited opportunities and benefits as citizens of the United States of America. Over these past 42 years the CNMI has received several billion dollars of direct and indirect financial support from the federal government for the benefit of all our citizens. The financial commitment continues on an annual allocation and will remain so for an indefinite period.

Moreover, as American citizens, there are unlimited opportunities for education, employment, business, investment, career, recreation and relaxation, as well as military and public service. The geographic boundary of the CNMI is no longer limited to the boundaries of the islands' lagoon; it extends from the CNMI to American Samoa to Hawaii, the continental United States and to the American Caribbean of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The sun never sets on the American shores. Our lands are among the most beautiful and scenic spots on this planet.

And finally, the diversity of our people, the indigenous Chamorro/Carolinians, all are now members of a much larger community of over 300 million Americans. We all benefit from the various cultural and ethic diversity of our American populations.

I wish to add that all our Founding Fathers were men of faith and acknowledged that we had to seek divine guidance and blessings to our endeavor. In response to our request for spiritual guidance, on the opening day ceremonies of the status negotiations, the invocation was delivered by His Excellency Felixberto Flores, bishop of the Diocese of Agana:

"Let us pray. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. O, Heavenly Father, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have assured us that whatever we ask for in His Name will be granted to us. Behold us here gathered today to initiate an historic event which will affect every face of our lives, your children, the people of the Marianas. We humbly beseech your guidance and direction from beginning to end in the discussion pertaining to our political aspirations to be a part of a great nation dedicated to uphold and sustain the God-given rights of every individual within its family. Watch over us during these days that we may be open in our deliberations, prudent in our expressions of what we are seeking, not only for ourselves, but for those who will in the future be the heirs of what we now seek. By your benevolent Providence, grant us the blessing of your favor that what we aspire to will be for the common good of all the people of the Marianas. Grant us, too, the blessings that we, your Christian people of the Marianas may, through our meager resources, bring further growth and development of our American community. We as ask all of these in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

This follows the Benediction of Rev. Charles Carr of the Saipan Community Church:

"Let us pray. Heavenly Father, as we the people of the Marianas pause on the brink of this brave and manly act of putting in our hands the shaping of our destiny, will be pleased to remind us, yes, each of us, that Thou, too, are at work in all things for good, for those who accommodate Thy purposes. Help us to proceed with steady purpose to hold truth and integrity in our highest esteem to acknowledge Thee as counselor and guide, and to give our best and our noblest efforts for our children, and our children's children, in the name of Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen."

It is with honor and great joy to have lived this long and to witness the enormous and significant benefits that our citizens now enjoy as a result of the implementation of our Covenant. I am particularly thankful to the families of the members of the MPSC who gave their blessings and support to the successful conclusion of the Covenant. I owe a debt of gratitude to my loving wife, Dulce G. Pangelinan, who almost singlehandedly raised our six kids in order for me to devote all my time and energy for the Covenant.

God bless the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to our country, the United States of America.

Edward DLG. Pangelinan was chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission.

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From Page 8

er price of hiring a lawyer to obtain a court order after we've died or become incapacitated, a court order decreeing something that we could have quickly and inexpensively done if we had planned our estate. So, the real question is not how much estate planning costs but whether the benefit of planning outweighs the cost of doing nothing.

To drive that cost down, some of us may be tempted to look online for a do-it-yourself template. If so, a word of caution: While some of these templates are fine, many aren't. And none of them are written with the CNMI's laws and practices in mind. Thus, these templates are a roll of the dice. And we won't find out whether that roll was a good one until after we've died or become incapacitated—i.e., well after it's too late to solve any mistakes.

To sum up: Everyone benefits from some estate planning—even young, single adults with no money. But not everyone needs the same amount of planning. To figure out how much you need, consider speaking with a qualified estate-planning attorney about your situation.

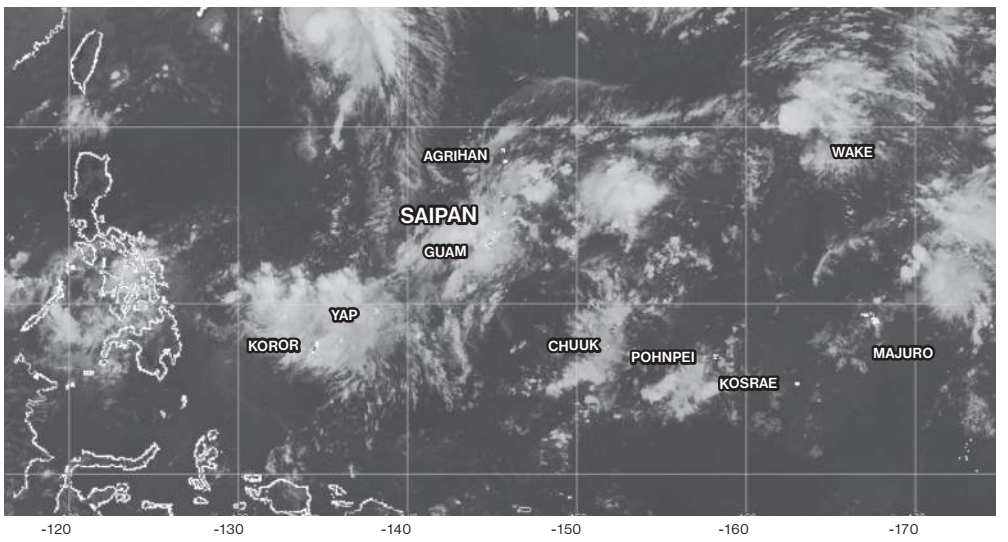
This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86° 77°	87° 78°	89° 78°	87° 76°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:09 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show that showers and thunderstorms have steadily increased across the area closer to Guam and Rota. Radar VAD-wind profile shows low-level winds out of the south-southwest of 15-20 kt and velocity data within thunderstorms show winds reaching to near 30 kt. These showers and thunderstorms are expected to persist the next couple of hours before diminishing some late this afternoon. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are still expected through tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:39 AM	10:19 PM	-
Wednesday	11:40 AM	11:13 PM	-
Thursday	12:40 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:09 AM	1:37 PM
Saturday	-	1:05 AM	2:30 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	82° / 54°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°
London	Sunny	66° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 60°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Windy	79° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 65°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	68° / 45°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	81° / 64°
Rome	Sunny	75° / 54°
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 67°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 57°
Tokyo	Showers	75° / 66°
Washington, DC	Sunny	84° / 64°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:14 AM	LOW TIDE	0.01
11:51 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.85
5:37 PM	LOW TIDE	1.03
10:50 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.89

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

GUM-MNL

UA183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	7:30am	10:50pm	5 via Guam

Friday GUM-MNL will need THU overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

ARRIVALS

MNL-GUM

UA184	10:45pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

Monday MNL-GUM will need TUE-WED overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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Business

MARK RABAGO
BBQ Deluxe Platter.

MARK RABAGO
Kimchi Soup and kimchi fried rice with dumplings and fried egg.

MARK RABAGO
BAB Korean Restaurant is located at the former Caesar's Sauna property along Beach Road in Garapan.

BAB unveils soup dishes for the rainy season

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Just in time for the rainy season, BAB Korean Restaurant has added soup dishes to complement the delicious rice topping dishes it continues to offer through its drive-thru service.

Restaurant manager Lotesa Ferrer said they have added Galbi Soup and Kimchi Soup to their successful CUP BAB offerings. "[The] rainy season is upon us and what better way to welcome the relatively cold weather than have a cup of piping hot soup. Our customers have also been asking us for our soup dishes in our drive-thru counter."

In addition to the two new soup dishes, BAB Korean Restaurant has also started offering Kimchi Fried Rice due to popular demand.

"Before, customers will go to our drive-thru and ask for Kimchi Fried Rice. Of course, we had to cook it from scratch and it took us around 10 minutes. But now, since it's part of our menu, it's readily available for our loyal customers to enjoy," she said.

Galbi Soup costs $8, while Kimchi Soup is priced at $7. Kimchi Fried Rice, which includes fried dumplings and fried eggs, is $6.

The new additions to the menu join the original Cup BAB lineup that includes Original BAB ($5), Volcano BAB ($5), Ugly Pop BAB ($6), Squid BAB ($6), Shake BAB ($6), Combo BAB ($7), Tteok ($6), Dak-Gangjeong or sweet and sour chicken ($6), K-Noodles ($5), Mandoo ($3), LA-BBQ BAB ($8), Pork-BBQ BAB ($7), and Ocean BAB ($7).

"All our dishes are cooked on the spot and are always fresh. They're all affordable and remain tasty as ever. Our service also continues to be top notch," said Ferrer.

BAB Korean Restaurant also has a slew of refreshing drinks that include Hawaiian iced tea, cinnamon/ginger tea, and iced coffee. Soda and bottled water are also available.

Ferrer said that their Hawaiian iced tea has developed quite a following such that some customers would line up at their drive-thru counter just to order the $2 drink.

Another good news is that BAB Korean Restaurant has an ongoing promotion where a $20 purchase entitles customers to free fried dumplings that normally cost $5. They also accept add-ons to their CUP BAB offerings with a cup of kimchi costing $2, double meat $3, and additional short ribs $3.

For those hosting parties or have large families, BAB Korean Restaurant's platters are for you. Platters should be ordered in advance (one hour before pick up) and come in two offerings—BBQ Deluxe Platter and Japchae Platter. The BBQ Deluxe Platter costs $50 and includes short ribs and barbecue pork, while the Japchae Platter comes in three variants that costs $20, $25, and $30 with the latter switching fish cake with beef bulgogi.

Ferrer said they've also extended their hours, as the drive-thru counter is now open from 10am to 8pm, up an hour from the previous 10:30am to 7:30pm. BAB Korean Restaurant also reminds customers that they accept credit cards.

BAB Korean Restaurant is located at the former Caesar's Sauna property along Beach Road in Garapan. For more information or for pre-orders, call 233-4222 or 483-5500 or find them on Facebook.

Mistake: Thousands told to return unemployment overpayment

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—A programming mistake caused more than 4,000 out-of-work Louisiana residents to get notices saying they'd been overpaid thousands of dollars in unemployment compensation and had to return the money, officials say.

"I apologize," Louisiana Workforce Commission Ava Dejoie told The Advocate. She said incorrectly programmed computers miscalculated benefits and automatically sent the notices to people who applied on two days in March.

The commission has sent nearly 8,500 "cancellation adjustment notices" to more than 4,300 people, commission media office staffer Frededreia "Dede" Dunham wrote in an email Friday to The Associated Press. Most people got two overpayment notices, one for state payments and one for federal payments, she said.

"There are around 20 overpayment cases that have not been canceled yet. There are variations within these cases which require further steps to be taken before canceling," she wrote.

Dejoie said the erroneous notices were sent Sept. 9 and 10 to people who applied for benefits on March 29 and 30.

Katherine Stephens, a legislative worker laid off in April, told WBRZ-TV that after her benefits stopped last week, she found a statement on the commission website saying she'd been overpaid. Her calls to the commission were not returned.

She got two letters Monday, one saying she owed the state $4,278 and $9,600 to the federal government.

"They're essentially asking me for $14,000, and I have 15 days to either pay it or appeal," she said.

The commission set up an email account for people dealing with the problem, a news release said.

Trump backs proposed deal to keep TikTok operating in US

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump said Saturday he's given his "blessing" to a proposed deal that would see the popular video-sharing app TikTok partner with Oracle and Walmart and form a U.S. company.

Trump has targeted Chinese-owned TikTok for national security and data privacy concerns in the latest flashpoint in the rising tensions between Washington and Beijing. The president's support for a deal comes just a day after the Commerce Department announced restrictions that if put in place could eventually make it nearly impossible for TikTok's legions of younger fans to use the app.

Trump said if completed the deal would create a new company likely to be based in Texas.

"I have given the deal my blessing," he said. "If they get it done, that's great. If they don't, that's OK too."

Trump said the new company will be hiring at least 25,000 people and making a $5 billion contribution to a fund dedicated to education for Americans. "That's their contribution that I've been asking for," he said.

TikTok said Oracle and Walmart could acquire up to a cumulative 20% stake in the new company in a financing round to be held before an initial public offering of stock, which Walmart said could happen within the next year. Oracle's stake would be 12.5%, and Walmart's would be 7.5%, the companies said in separate statements.

The deal will make Oracle responsible for hosting all TikTok's U.S. user data and securing computer systems to ensure U.S. national security requirements are satisfied. Walmart said it will provide its ecommerce, fulfillment, payments and other services to the new company.

"We are pleased that the proposal by TikTok, Oracle, and Walmart will resolve the security concerns of the U.S. administration and settle questions around TikTok's future in the U.S.," TikTok said in a statement.

Trump has been demanding that the U.S. operations of TikTok be sold to a U.S. company or else be shut down. He's also been targeting WeChat, another Chinese-owned app.

The administration contends that the user data collected by the two apps could be shared with the Chinese government. On Saturday, Trump said the U.S.-based TikTok "will have nothing to do with China." TikTok says it has 100 million U.S. users.

On Friday, the U.S. Commerce Department said it would bar TikTok from U.S. app stores as of late Sunday. Further restrictions that would prevent TikTok from accessing essential internet services in the country would go into effect on Nov. 12. Commerce said Saturday that it will delay the barring of TikTok from U.S. app stores until Sept. 27 at 11:59 p.m.

Commerce is imposing similar restrictions on WeChat, although all of the restrictions on that app are set to go into effect Sunday night at 11:59 p.m.

Nation

2020 serves another blow as Ginsburg's death ignites fight

AP
In this Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, file photo, a sign featuring a likeness of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is carried in Washington Square Park in New York, a day after the death of the Supreme Court justice.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death drew mourners to the steps of the Supreme Court, where they sang "Amazing Grace" in the dark. Fresh off a rally stage in Minnesota, President Donald Trump learned of the loss and praised Ginsburg as an "amazing" woman.

Such grace notes didn't last long. They were overwhelmed as swiftly as the sagebrush of Western wildfires, little boats in the hurricanes and hospitals at the height of infections in this year of calamity and a book named "Rage."

With a court seat open, yet another fiery fight is lit between partisans clashing over matters of racism, policing, masks, lockdowns, how to vote and for whom to vote, as one crisis after another pummels the country, bringing no unity and no common heroes, just another flashpoint.

How many more of them can America take?

Perhaps not since Weather Underground radicals bombed buildings in a drive to "disrupt the empire" and the Nixon-era Southern Strategy seized on racism as a political tool has the country faced tension and turmoil from so many corners at once.

Inevitably, and against her last wishes, Ginsburg became a political football mere minutes after her death was disclosed Friday night. New winds of rage picked up.

Condolences from public figures across the divide came with opening salvos in the struggle over her replacement. Republicans are pressing for preelection action on a Trump nominee; Democrats for a post-election, post-inauguration nomination that they hope will come from a new president, Joe Biden. Trump says he'll name his choice this week.

Protesters are protesting. The political battle is joined. Campaign money is being leveraged from Ginsburg's death by both sides. It's the American way.

"BREAKING: The future of the Supreme Court is on the line," said a fundraising email from Republican Sen. Joni Ernst's Iowa campaign shortly after the justice's death was announced.

"Fill that seat," Trump supporters chanted at his North Carolina rally Saturday, when the president playfully fake-polled the crowd about whom to choose as his nominee, seeing opportunity to turn the race around.

From the other side, a sign read: "Ditch Mitch" at a protest outside the home of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, the Republican at the center of the coming power play.

"We must mobilize, organize, and remove Donald Trump from office to ensure that her service to our country and her commitment to justice and equality are never lost or forgotten," said Democratic Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts.

Mobilize. Organize. Fight. To the ramparts Americans are summoned again.

The supposed national trauma that ushered in 2020, a president's impeachment, is all but forgotten because it segued into so much more. All of it plays out as the novel coronavirus infects tens of thousands more people in the U.S. each day and deaths from it mount, soon to pass 200,000. And soon to be layered with the flu season.

"Today people feel the insecurity and they feel it in almost every venue," said historian Cal Jillson of Southern Methodist University. "The presidency is in the hands of a serial disrupter. Congress is polarized and often immobilized. The court is balanced on a knife's edge."

Beyond those pillars, the structure is stressed, too.

Practically every part of government and public service—the post office, the Census Bureau, the Justice Department, the Pentagon, the storied public-health institutions, the national security, intelligence and foreign affairs apparatus—is roiling from some form of Trump disruption.

For most NYC students, back to school, but not the classroom

NEW YORK (AP)—Monday's return to New York City schools won't be the return anyone planned for. For most, it won't be a return at all.

Only pre-kindergarten and some special education students are scheduled to end a six-month absence from school buildings after a last-minute decision to postpone, for the second time, plans to be among the first big districts to resume in-person instruction after the coronavirus forced students and staff home.

Schoolchildren in kindergarten through 12th grade are still starting the new school year Monday, but fully remotely, the same way students in Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston and many of New York's other urban districts have.

After a fidgety spring of online pre-K, Jessica D'Amato's 5-year-old son has been so excited about going back to in-person school that he keeps asking: "When am I going to kindergarten?"

First the answer was Sept. 10. Then it was Monday. Now it's Sept. 29, much to the family's frustration. High school students return Oct. 1.

"I think that all the students are really, really at a disservice right now -- because of the uncertainty, because of the lack of in-person instruction," says D'Amato, 35, a public relations manager who lives in Brooklyn. She wonders why the city is still grappling with the staffing shortages cited for the latest delay after having months to plan, and how likely it is that the extra days will solve the problem.

"I can't see how they're going to fix the issue in a week, and I'll be very upset if then they push it again," she said, "because this kid needs to be in school already."

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the new timeline Thursday alongside leaders of the city's teachers union, who had sounded alarms that schools could not open safely.

De Blasio said Friday he is confident the new dates will stick.

The majority of the more than 1 million public school students will be in the classroom one to three days a week and learning remotely the rest of the time.

Before the latest delay, teacher Chloe Davis had spent last week bracing to welcome her fourth-grade class at PS 536, reassured on one level upon seeing the newly cleaned and painted building but so anxious at times she broke down crying. Chief among her worries is keeping her students from picking up the virus and bringing it home to their families.

"Four or five months ago, thousands of people were dying," said Davis, who takes the subway to her school in the Bronx, "and the pandemic is still around. The virus is still there and we're still in the midst of a pandemic."

The rate of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations plunged after an April peak and has largely flattened this summer across the state: New York's seen an average of 1% of daily tests coming up positive since June.

Still, New York City's seen a slight tick up in hospitalizations and infections this month.

An average of 223 COVID-19 patients were hospitalized in New York City over the week ending Wednesday, up from 195 in the same time period two weeks earlier.

And New York City has seen an average of 289 new COVID-19 infections over the past week, up from a 7-day average of 262 three weeks earlier.

The city reported another 4,400 positive COVID-19 tests so far this month, on top of another 9,000 in August.

Daniel Leviatin, a fourth-grade teacher and school librarian at PS 59 in the Bronx, sees no reason to push students back into buildings and believes the city squandered the chance to address technology issues and improve distance learning over the summer.

Douglas statue comes down, but Lincoln had racist views, too

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—With the nation racing to come to grips with centuries of racial sins, officials plan to remove the Capitol lawn statue of Stephen A. Douglas, whose forceful 19th century politics helped forge modern-day Illinois but who also profited from slavery.

Just inside the Statehouse hangs another revered depiction of an Illinois legend—and longtime Douglas rival—who expressed white supremacist views: Abraham Lincoln. The immense painting in the governor's second-floor office depicts a Sept. 18, 1858, debate between the two men that opened with these words from Lincoln, who was vying for Douglas' Senate seat and was still two years away from running for president:

"I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and Black races. ... There is a physical difference between the white and Black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality."

When the Douglas statue is put in storage this fall, it will become the latest in a line of monuments, from Confederate generals to Christopher Columbus, to come down during the global reckoning on race sparked by the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody. There has been no discussion, though, about removing likenesses of Lincoln, the president whose Civil War victory freed the slaves, despite his earlier views on race.

"At a certain point, where do you cut it off? Jefferson, he wrote the Declaration of Independence. You separate that from him being a slave owner," St. Louis tourist Eric Zuelke said during a recent visit to the Douglas statue, referring to Thomas Jefferson.

Lincoln believed that slavery was morally wrong and, like Douglas, he opposed it, although the two differed on how to end it. While his thinking evolved in the White House, Lincoln's advocacy for Black people in 1858 stopped at recognizing their natural rights under the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal," though his was still a radical position for the time.

World

Sweden spared surge of virus cases but many questions remain

STOCKHOLM (AP)—A train pulls into the Odenplan subway station in central Stockholm, where morning commuters without masks get off or board before settling in to read their smartphones.

Whether on trains or trams, in supermarkets or shopping malls — places where face masks are commonly worn in much of the world — Swedes go about their lives without them.

When most of Europe locked down their populations early in the pandemic by closing schools, restaurants, gyms and even borders, Swedes kept enjoying many freedoms.

The relatively low-key strategy captured the world's attention, but at the same time it coincided with a per capita death rate that was much higher than in other Nordic countries.

Now, as infection numbers surge again in much of Europe, the country of 10 million people has some of the lowest numbers of new coronavirus cases -- and only 14 virus patients in intensive care.

Whether Sweden's strategy is succeeding, however, is still very uncertain.

Its health authorities, and in particular chief epidemiologist Dr. Anders Tegnell, keep repeating a familiar warning: It's too early to tell, and all countries are in a different phase of the pandemic.

That has not stopped a World Health Organization Europe official from saying the continent could learn broader lessons from Sweden that could help the virus battle elsewhere.

"We must recognize that Sweden, at the moment, has avoided the increase that has been seen in some of the other countries in western Europe," WHO Europe's senior emergency officer, Catherine Smallwood, said Thursday. "I think there are lessons for that. We will be very keen on working and hearing more from the Swedish approach."

According to the European Center for Disease Control, Sweden has reported 30.3 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 14 days, compared with 292.2 in Spain, 172.1 in France, 61.8 in the U.K. and 69.2 in Denmark, all of which imposed strict lockdowns early in the pandemic.

Overall, Sweden has 88,237 reported infections and 5,864 fatalities from the virus, or 57.5 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants since the beginning of the crisis.

The way Sweden's strategy was viewed outside the country seems to depend largely on what stage of the pandemic the observer was experiencing at the time. Initially, many abroad were incredulous at images of Swedes dining with friends in restaurants or sipping cocktails on the Stockholm waterfront. Some were envious that Swedish businesses were not forced to close.

Then came shock as the virus ripped through the country's nursing homes and hospices.

By mid-April, more than 100 deaths were reported each day in Sweden, while mortality rates were falling elsewhere in Europe.

Today, as fears of a second wave grow across Europe, it's fashionable to praise Sweden, with reporters from France, the U.K. and elsewhere traveling to Stockholm to ask about its success.

But a Swedish government commission investigating the handling of the pandemic will, undoubtedly, have hard questions to answer: Did authorities wait too long to limit access to nursing homes, where about half of the deaths occurred? Were they too slow to provide personal protective equipment to staff in those homes when shortcomings in the elderly care sector had long been known? Why did it take so long to set up widescale testing?

Tegnell also refuses to rule out a second wave of coronavirus infections in Sweden. A particular concern is the return of students to high schools for the first time since March.

"We need to be very careful and find the first sign that something is going on so that we can do as much as possible to prevent it from escalating," he told The Associated Press.

UN chief: No UN support for reimposing Iran sanctions now

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says the United Nations will not support reimposing sanctions on Iran as the United States is demanding until he gets a green light from the Security Council.

The U.N. chief said in a letter to the council president obtained Sunday by The Associated Press that "there would appear to be uncertainty" on whether or not U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo triggered the "snapback" mechanism in the Security Council resolution that enshrined the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six major powers.

The Trump administration declared Saturday that all U.N. sanctions against Iran have been restored, a move most of the rest of the world rejects as illegal and is likely to ignore. The U.S. announcement is certain to cause controversy during the U.N.'s annual high-level meetings of the General Assembly starting Monday, which is being held mainly virtually this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. announcement came 30 days after Pompeo notified the council that the administration was triggering "snapback" because Iran was in "significant non-performance" with its obligations under the accord, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

But the overwhelming majority of members in the 15-nation council call the U.S. action illegal because President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the plan in 2018.

They point to Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the nuclear agreement. It states that "a JCPOA participant state" can trigger the "snapback" mechanism. The U.S. insists that as an original participant it has the legal right, even though it ceased participating.

Guterres noted in the letter that "the Security Council has taken no action subsequent to the receipt of the letter of the U.S. secretary of state, neither have any of its members or its president."

He said the majority of council members have written to the council president "to the effect that the letter did not constitute a notification" that "snapback" was triggered. And he said the presidents of the council for August and September "have indicated that they were not in a position to take any action in regard to this matter."

Indian lawmakers pass farm bills amid uproar in Parliament

NEW DELHI (AP)—Amid an uproar in Parliament, Indian lawmakers on Sunday approved a pair of controversial agriculture bills that the government says will boost growth in the farming sector through private investments.

The two bills were approved even though most opposition parties and some allies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi called them anti-farmer.

The legislation is aimed at reforming India's deeply stressed farming sector and will give farmers freedom to market their produce, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said while tabling the proposed laws in the upper house of Parliament. The bills are also aimed at removing middlemen from the farm trade and making farming market-oriented, the government has said.

The upper house passed two out of three bills, amid a war of words between ruling lawmakers and those opposing the legislation. The third bill, intended to be part of the farm liberalization plan, could not be taken up because the upper house adjourned for the day amid chaotic scenes, with opposition lawmakers tearing documents and shouting slogans against the bills.

The lower house had approved all three bills on Thursday. The passed bills will have to be signed by India's ceremonial president, a formality before becoming law.

On Thursday, Shiromani Akali Dal party lawmaker Harsimrat Kaur resigned as minister for food processing in protest against the bills. The party is one of the Modi government's most trusted allies.

Tomar sought to allay critics of the legislation by saying that the government's market intervention policy to procure agriculture crops from farmers will continue. The policy insures farmers against any sharp fall in prices of their agricultural produce.

However, the opposition leaders launched scathing attacks on the government, calling the legislation "black law" and "pro-corporate."

Rahul Gandhi, a top leader of the main opposition Congress party, said in a tweet Sunday that Modi "is making farmers 'slaves' of the capitalists, which the country will never allow to succeed."

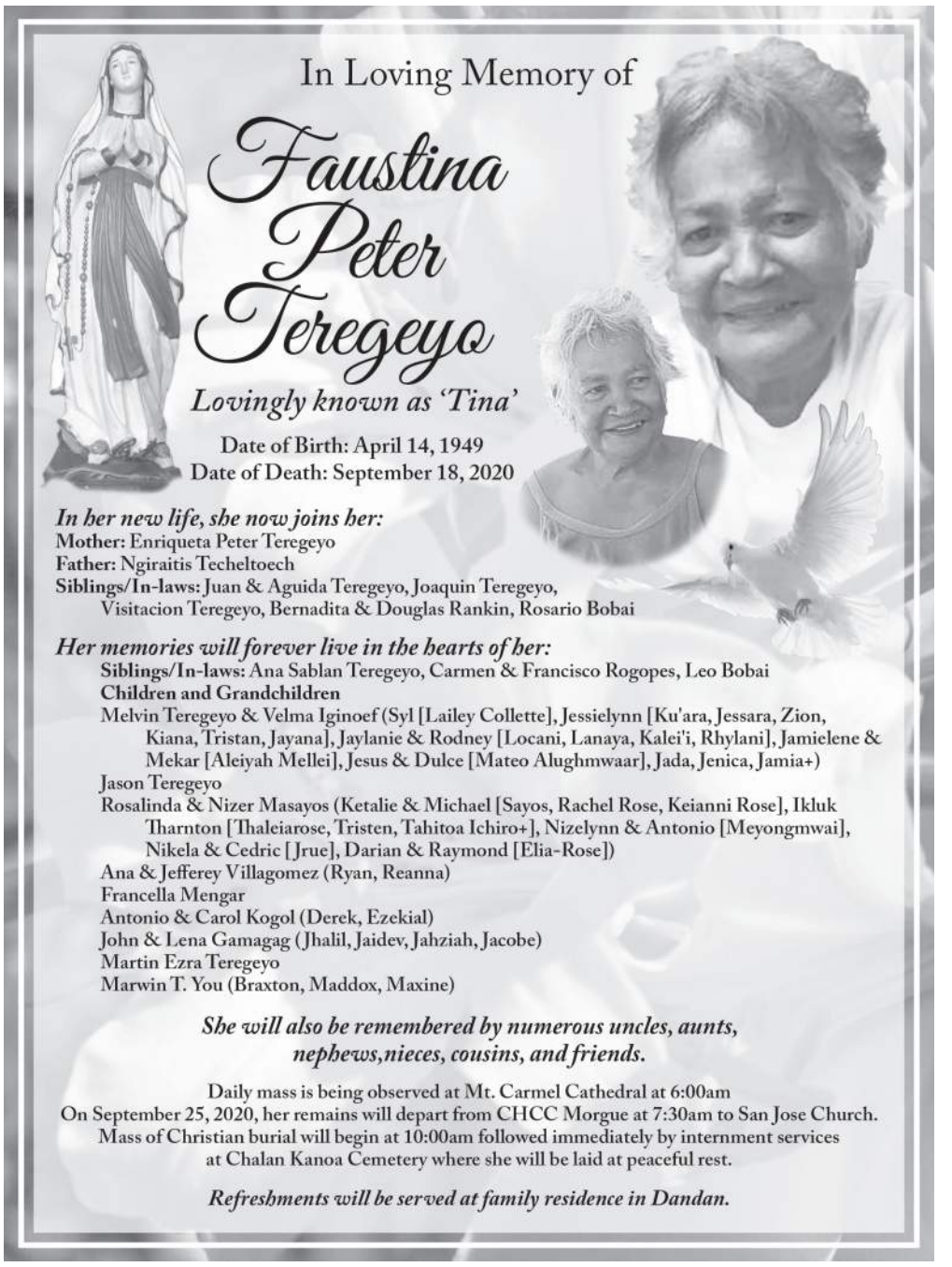
The government has projected that its massive support plans in the agriculture sector will double farmers' income by 2022.

The critics say the bills create an undemocratic mechanism by which bureaucrats become arbitrators to settle any contract disputes between farmers and buyers, rather than civil courts. They also say that in the absence of better infrastructure like climate-controlled storage facilities, proper roads and reliable irrigation and power supply, removing middlemen will not be helpful to the farming sector.

Participating in the Parliament debate, former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, now a lawmaker, asked Modi to explain the short- and long-term impact of the bills on farmers.

"The prime minister should explain why there's a hurry to pass the bills amid the pandemic," he said. Modi should "explain how it will help in achieving the government's goal of doubling farmers' income," he added.

Farmers have long been seen as the heart and soul of India, where agriculture supports more than half of the country's 1.4 billion people. But they've also seen their economic clout diminish over the last three decades. Once accounting for a third of India's gross domestic product, farmers now account for only 15% of the country's $2.9 trillion economy.


In Loving Memory of
Faustina Peter Teregeyo
Lovingly known as 'Tina'
Date of Birth: April 14, 1949
Date of Death: September 18, 2020
In her new life, she now joins her:
Mother: Enriqueta Peter Teregeyo
Father: Ngiraitis Techeltoech
Siblings/In-laws: Juan & Aguida Teregeyo, Joaquin Teregeyo, Visitacion Teregeyo, Bernadita & Douglas Rankin, Rosario Bobai
Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Siblings/In-laws: Ana Sablan Teregeyo, Carmen & Francisco Rogopes, Leo Bobai
Children and Grandchildren
Melvin Teregeyo & Velma Iginoef (Syl [Lailey Collette], Jessielynn [Ku'ara, Jessara, Zion, Kiana, Tristan, Jayana], Jaylanie & Rodney [Locani, Lanaya, Kalei'i, Rhylani], Jamielene & Mekar [Aleiyah Mellei], Jesus & Dulce [Mateo Alughmwaar], Jada, Jenica, Jamia+)
Jason Teregeyo
Rosalinda & Nizer Masayos (Ketalie & Michael [Sayos, Rachel Rose, Keianni Rose], Ikluk Tharnton [Thaleiarose, Tristen, Tahitoa Ichiro+], Nizelynn & Antonio [Meyongmwai], Nikela & Cedric [Jrue], Darian & Raymond [Elia-Rose])
Ana & Jefferey Villagomez (Ryan, Reanna)
Francella Mengar
Antonio & Carol Kogol (Derek, Ezekial)
John & Lena Gamagag (Jhalil, Jaidev, Jahziah, Jacobe)
Martin Ezra Teregeyo
Marwin T. You (Braxton, Maddox, Maxine)
She will also be remembered by numerous uncles, aunts, nephews,nieces, cousins, and friends.
Daily mass is being observed at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00am
On September 25, 2020, her remains will depart from CHCC Morgue at 7:30am to San Jose Church.
Mass of Christian burial will begin at 10:00am followed immediately by internment services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid at peaceful rest.
Refreshments will be served at family residence in Dandan.

Overdrive

Cheap frills make the 2020 Nissan Sentra a little luxury ride

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TNS
The 2020 Nissan Sentra's new body is about 2 inches lower and 2 inches wider than the previous generation.

Have you ever noticed that all apartment rentals are marketed as luxury apartments, even though they're not? My grandmother lived in an apartment building with a doorman, and a large swimming pool with private cabanas. Its lobby contained a market, a florist, a beauty parlor, a restaurant and bar, a pharmacy, and a dry cleaner. Most new "luxury" apartments offer nothing even close to this, beyond a gym.

Certainly luxury is an overused word, but the concept is simple: A luxury product or service make our lives easier, even enjoyable, and wears a hefty price tag that ensures its exclusivity. But this idea is being challenged in the auto industry, where the technology one might associate with a luxury car — heated seats, heated steering wheel, a high-end audio system, an infotainment touchscreen with high-end audio, and a generous array of driver assistance safety systems—are available on all cars regardless of price. So what does it say about luxury products when the same benefits are attainable without a hefty price tag? Is luxury dead, or is it merely being democratized?

Such questions arise from the redesigned 2020 Nissan Sentra SR, a compact sedan competing in a class brimming with worthy competitors. Perhaps this is why the Sentra's apparel is far more trendy for 2020, mimicking the appearance of the larger Altima and Maxima. And buyers can choose a Sentra with two-tone paint—a $595 option—which makes for a striking look, one that belies its price.

Offered in ascending S, SV and SR trim, the Sentra can be fitted like a little luxury car, especially if you opt for the SR and its $2,170 Premium Package, which adds to the Sentra's appealing aesthetics with LED headlights, power sliding glass moonroof, heated steering wheel, heated front seats, leatherette seats, power driver's seat with power lumbar, eight-speaker Bose Premium Audio System, 360-degree view monitor, auto-dimming rearview mirror, and illuminated visor vanity mirrors. Nissan provides USB-A, USB-C, auxiliary, and 12-volt plugs as well as standard Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and a standard 7-inch or optional 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system that's very easy to use, a luxury that can't be said of the clunky system used in pricier Nissans. There's no navigation, but most folks use their smartphones for that anyway.

It's all set in a roomy cabin is filled with impressive detailing, particularly the stitching on the flat-bottom steering wheel, shifter cover, instrument panel, center console and seats. Although materials feel neither opulent nor cheap, there are soft-touch materials where you expect them to offset the hard plastic used elsewhere. Round air vents add a distinctive design touch, while a $500 Lighting Package adds ambient interior lighting and exterior ground lighting. And the center console bin is huge.

But the ultimate indulgence is the Sentra's unexpectedly room cabin that provides good head and legroom up front, and surprisingly good leg and foot space in the rear, although headroom is compromised somewhat by the car's styling. And the trunk is impressively expansive considering the size of the car.

If all of this is not enough to move you, perhaps this will be: the Sentra's double-overhead-cam 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine mated to a continuously-variable automatic transmission that develops 149 horsepower, a 20% increase from 2019. Power is fairly good, but the CVT transmission feels reluctant to let loose unless things are already boiling. The flipside of this is good fuel economy of 31 mpg. Remarkably, there's no engine vibration at idle, although the engine gets raucous when revved. But it sounds great.

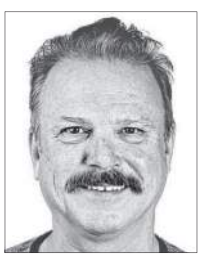
While the Sentra SR is no sports sedan in training, it's a satisfying small sedan to drive. The steering is nicely weighted and returns some road feel. The cabin is astonishingly quiet, more so than cars at twice the price. Ride is fairly absorbent, although, like any compact, the worst road shocks bang through. Body lean is evident in corners, but body motions are very well controlled. There's still plenty of grip and the Sentra still provides enough eagerness to make it an unexpectedly fun car to drive. Credit the new multilink independent rear suspension that replaces the old torsion-beam suspension. And, should you get in over your head, you'll find an impressive array of standard driver assist technologies, including automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection, blind spot warning, rear cross traffic alert, lane departure warning, high beam assist and rear automatic braking.

It proves that you don't have to live a life of deprivation to obtain an affordable, roomy sedan with the sort of options that would have been luxury league just a decade ago. And it comes wrapped in a package that eschews the dowdiness that has been a Sentra trait for far too long. The 2020 Nissan Sentra is a tempting package for the price, a car that delivers a level of equipment, style and driving satisfaction that would have once classified it as a luxury car. Its quiet, comfortable persona only adds to the illusion.

No, the 2020 Nissan Sentra isn't a luxury car, even if it has most of the hallmarks. Consider it a secret indulgence. I promise not to tell.

Motormouth: An elusive owner's manual

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: I read the item (about PDF owner's manuals) with interest. I was in that situation when I bought my 2019 Honda Accord. I wrote to Honda that, when I am on the road and find I need to refer to the manual for example to understand a warning light, I do not want to have to squint at a PDF on my phone to see what's what. I am not a Luddite, but I want a book I can open, find the index, and find what I need. They printed out a bound manual for me at no charge.

—M.H., Racine, Wis.

A: I too prefer hard copies. I am not a technophobe (and would not have joined a mob trying to burn down a stocking factory), yet when recently installing a mesh router, I printed out the manual _ double sided, or course. My newspaper even arrives in a box near the road.

Q: About the small "owner's manual" in the glove compartment rather than the full deal, it's a trend for everything these days. One option is sending the PDF to one of the online print shops and get a hard copy made. I ask for "booklet" size (fits better with the gloves) and spiral bound (stays open to a particular page).

—J.D., West Dundee, Ill.

A: Great idea.

Q: My 2016 Lincoln MKC display says "system off to save battery." The dealer replaced the battery under warranty with a new one, but the same message appeared. I'm concerned it will appear again when out of warranty and this model vehicle is discontinued. Should I be concerned that this is a software problem and there is no download to update available from the manufacturer?

—R.M., Crystal Lake, Ill.

A: Your car is actually behaving normally. In order to prevent the battery from discharging to the point that you can no longer start the car, it shuts down nonessential systems. This happens mostly with cars that are not frequently driven, especially in very cold environments. One thing we would have checked, however, is the charging system. The battery needs to be at full charge when you shut down the engine.

Q: I own a 2006 Cadillac DTS with the Northstar V-8 and 98,000 miles. The vehicle runs exceptionally well and the engine has only been serviced by the Cadillac dealer. The vehicle has begun to cut off while in drive with no warning and no check engine light. It starts back up and runs perfectly for weeks or months. A mechanic did a diagnostic test but there were no code errors. What systems should I investigate?

—A.T., Chicago

A: Caddy dealers have very sophisticated testing equipment and In th' hands of a well-trained technician it can provide a ton of information. Stuff like short term and long term fuel trim. Yeah, it is rocket science. Systems can be observed in real time as well as report older data. Not every problem sets a trouble code, only those that have something to do with emissions. Of course, that covers a lot of ground. If you dealer doesn't have techs with up-to-date training, seek another dealer.

Q: My Toyota Camry Solara convertible has 72,316 miles on it and I'm concerned about when I should replace the timing belt. I've been told in the past that the belt probably won't last for much longer than 72,000 mile and if it breaks, it will cause severe (expensive) damage. What are your thoughts on this?

—B.M., Wilmington, Mass.

A: The four-cylinder engines have timing chains and the V-6s have belts, so it depends on your engine. For belts, we suggest replacement sometime between 75,000 and 100,000 miles. It should be stated in your owner's manual, if you can find it.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Nissan Sentra

- Base price: $19,310-$21,650
- Engine: 2.0-liter DOHC four-cylinder
- Horsepower/Torque: 149/146
- EPA fuel economy (combined): 32 mpg
- Observed fuel economy: 31 mpg
- Fuel required: Regular unleaded
- Length/Width/Height: 182.7/71.5/57 inches
- Ground clearance: 4.9 inches
- Cargo capacity: 14.3 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: Not rated
- Curb weight: 3,084 pounds

Life & Style

A sweep for 'Schitt's Creek,' 'Succession' tops Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Schitt's Creek," the little Canadian show about a fish-out-of-water family, made history at Sunday's Emmy Awards with a comedy awards sweep, something even TV greats including "Frasier" and "Modern Family" failed to achieve.

Zendaya, 24, became the youngest lead drama actress winner for her role as a troubled teenager in "Euphoria." She's only the second Black actress to win the award, following Viola Davis' groundbreaking 2015 win for "How to Get Away With Murder."

"I know this seems like a really weird time to be celebrating," Zendaya said. "But I just want to say there is hope in the young people out there. I know our TV show doesn't always feel like a great example of that," but young people are out there "doing the work."

"Succession," a family power struggle over a media empire, was honored as best drama series, and creator Jesse Armstrong used the opportunity to offer "unthanks," including to President Donald Trump for what Armstrong called his "crummy" handling of the pandemic.

"Succession" star Jeremy Strong won the drama actor trophy for his role as a potential heir to the throne.

The virtual ceremony, with a hard-working Jimmy Kimmel as host, went smoothly despite producers' concerns that the plan to link 100-plus nominees remotely could result in glitches.

Although the rise of streaming services including Disney+ and Apple TV+ dominates the TV landscape, it was Emmy stalwart HBO that stole the show, with winners including "Succession" and "Watchmen" making up for its now-departed awards giant "Game of Thrones." Viacom-CBS-owned Pop TV and its quirky comedy also proved unbeatable.

Disney's Star Wars-derived "The Mandalorian" had to settle for technical awards, falling short in the best drama contest.

The awards for Pop TV's "Schitt's Creek" included best comedy series and trophies for its stars, including Catherine O'Hara and father-son Eugene and Daniel Levy.

"It is absolutely incredible. I think my dad said it best earlier this evening: it's a dream you don't want to wake up from, to be honest. What an absolutely unbelievable way to end our series," Daniel Levy said backstage.

His character's comfortable pansexuality led to story lines that Levy called personally "cathartic."

In his acceptance speech, he said the sitcom was about "the transformational effects of love and acceptance, and this is something we need more now than ever before," encouraging people to register and vote to achieve that goal.

Other winners, including "Watchmen" star Regina King, made a point that the Nov. 3 general election was near.

All the winners accepted their awards virtually in the pandemic-safe ceremony, including O'Hara, but she wasn't alone.

"Though these are the strangest of days, may you have as much joy being holed up in a room or two with your family as I had with my dear Roses," O'Hara said from Canada, surrounded in a decorated room by mask-wearing co-stars who play the Rose family members.

Levy called it "ironical that the straightest role I ever played lands me an Emmy for a comedy performance. I have to seriously question what I've been doing" for the past 50 years.

Moments later, his son won the award for comedy writing for "Schitt's Creek" episode, then shared a directing award and captured the supporting actor comedy trophy. The supporting actress trophy went to his co-star Annie Murphy.

Daniel Levy thanked his father and O'Hara for an extended "master class" in comedy. The show's sweep came for its much-acclaimed final season.

References to coronavirus were an ongoing part of the ceremony, with essential workers—including a teacher and a UPS deliveryman—presenting awards and Jason Sudeikis ostensibly getting a COVID-19 test onstage.

In a year with a record number of Black nominees, 35, there was a notable lack of diversity in the show's early going. With "Schitt's Creek" gobbling up comedy awards, that left acclaimed "Insecure" and its creator Issa Rae empty-handed.

That was also true of Ramy Youssef, creator-star of the semi-autobiographical comedy "Ramy," about a young Muslim American's love and religious life. Youssef tweeted a video of a haz-mat suit-wearing person clutching an Emmy and waving goodbye after Youssef lost the lost the comedy actor category.

There were signs of change with the drama awards, which came in the latter part of the ceremony, and Black actors ultimately won a record nine trophies. But there was a familiar pattern, with actors of color doing exceptional work in limited series but not finding as much opportunity in ongoing shows, with Zendaya this year's exception.

"Watchmen" is a case in point. The graphic novel-adaptation, steeped in racial pain, was voted best limited series and King won lead actress for her work. She was showered by confetti as she accepted in an armchair, wearing a T-shirt that honored police shooting victim Breonna Taylor.

AP

In this video grab captured on Sept. 20, 2020, courtesy of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and ABC Entertainment, Catherine O'Hara accepts the award for outstanding lead actress in a comedy series for "Schitt's Creek" during the 72nd Emmy Awards broadcast.

A pillar of the community is less admired at home

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 14 years to a man a lot of people in our town think has no flaws. He helps a lot of people, and he is also a pastor, but he ignores me and takes me for granted, personally, emotionally and sexually. He'd rather watch TV until he falls asleep on the couch.

He looks at pornography online, and I catch him often. Even if he's busy at work, he finds time for everybody but me. He always has excuses.

Since I married him, I have supported him and have gone the extra mile in all aspects—his work, church activities. I have waited on him and made sure all his needs were met. Now I have reached the end of the line, and I want to leave. But if I do, people who know him will make me the villain.

Although we still live under one roof for financial reasons, now I separate myself from him, look after him less and sleep in another room with my dog. Please, Abby, give me your views.

DONE WITH IT IN MAINE

DEAR DONE: It appears your husband has already checked out of this marriage-in-name-only. Stop being afraid of being labelled a villain and offer your husband the option of couples counseling to see if the two of you can reconnect. Take into consideration that there may be more involved than you are aware of (ED problems, another woman). If your husband refuses, and you haven't already done so, confide what has been happening in two or three close female friends. They can then spread the word that there is more than one side to the story. Then talk to an attorney.

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, my mother-in-law moved into a nursing home and was very sad to be leaving the house she had lived in for 50 years. My husband, devastated at the thought of someone else owning his childhood home, convinced me to sell our house and buy the house from my mother-in-law. We moved in and began renovating it with the intention that it would become our forever home.

The problem is, everyone regards it as THEIR home, not ours. His adult children, his brother and his nieces all come and go as they please. I have talked to my husband about locking the front door, but he often forgets.

His family members come into our house and make a mess or eat our food or sit out on our deck. Then they act like I need to accept it, as it's their family house. I could maybe understand if we had inherited the house, but we pay the mortgage on it.

I'm out of patience. How do I get my in-laws to once and for all see that this house is not theirs but ours?

DESPERATE IN THE MIDWEST

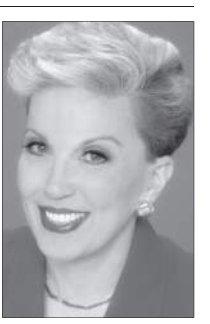
DEAR DESPERATE: I assume you have been hesitant to tell these in-laws that the names on the deed to the house are yours and your husband's. If you haven't said it plainly, the time to do it is now. You don't have to be nasty, but you do have to convey that you would like guests to call before coming over to be sure it's convenient. This is not too much to ask.

It goes without saying (I sincerely hope) that they shouldn't mess the place up or help themselves to your food uninvited. Your husband should back you up on this. Because he sometimes forgets to lock the door, that responsibility is one you will have to assume. You have my sympathy.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

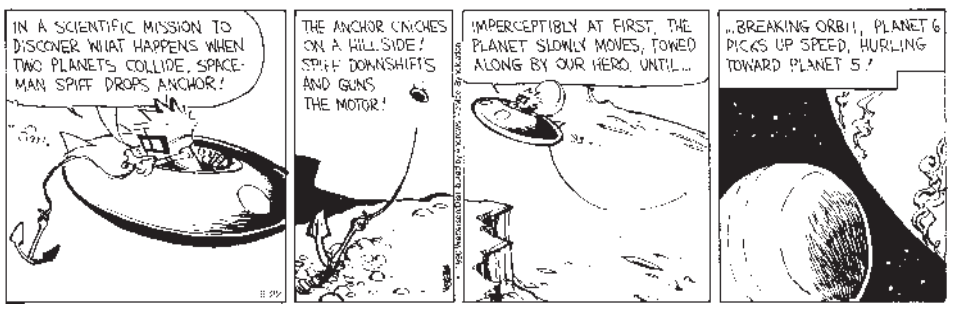


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

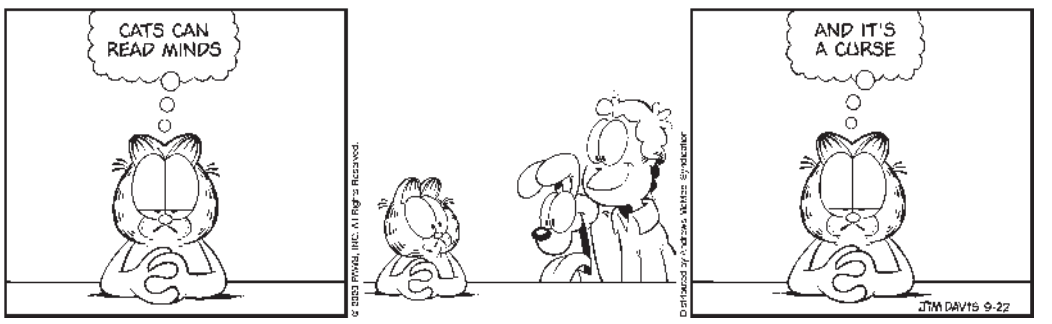
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IN A SCIENTIFIC MISSION TO DISCOVER WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO PLANETS COLLIDE, SPACEMAN SPIFF DROPS ANCHOR!
THE ANCHOR CATCHES ON A HILLSIDE! SPIFF DOWNSHIFTS AND GUNS THE MOTOR!
IMPERCEPTIBLY AT FIRST, THE PLANET SLOWLY MOVES, TOWED ALONG BY OUR HERO, UNTIL...
...BREAKING ORBIT, PLANET 6 PICKS UP SPEED, HURLING TOWARD PLANET 5!

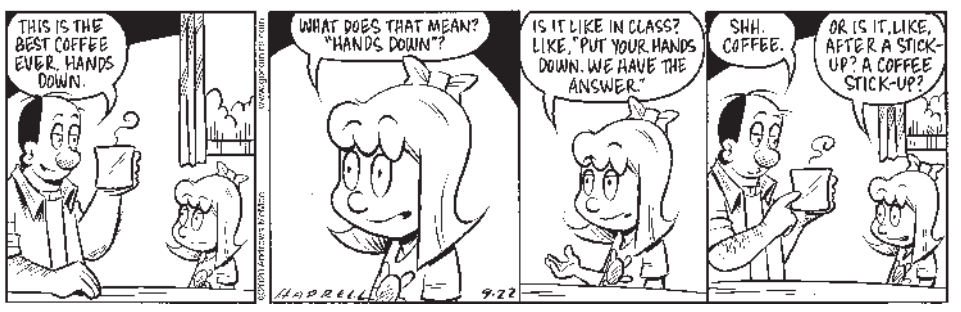
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THIS IS THE BEST COFFEE EVER. HANDS DOWN.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? "HANDS DOWN"?
IS IT LIKE IN CLASS? LIKE, "PUT YOUR HANDS DOWN. WE HAVE THE ANSWER."
SHH. COFFEE.
OR IS IT, LIKE, AFTER A STICK-UP? A COFFEE STICK-UP?
9-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ointment amounts
5 Slugger's need
8 Corn castoffs
12 Coup d'—
13 Reuben bread
14 "The Good Dinosaur" dino
15 Knock-outs
17 Stagger
18 Favorite
19 Syna-gogue text
21 Fanatical
24 Bond foe
25 Oklahoma city
26 State divisions
30 Retrieve
31 Cathartic drug
32 Transcript no.
33 Darlings
35 Cowboy's footwear
36 Like ganders
37 Handbag
38 Jungle trek
41 Perch
42 "Dedicated to the — Love"
43 With "the," heat wave tempera-tures
48 Lounge
49 "Today" rival, briefly
50 Flock females
51 Tolkien creatures
52 Soak (up)
53 Portrayal

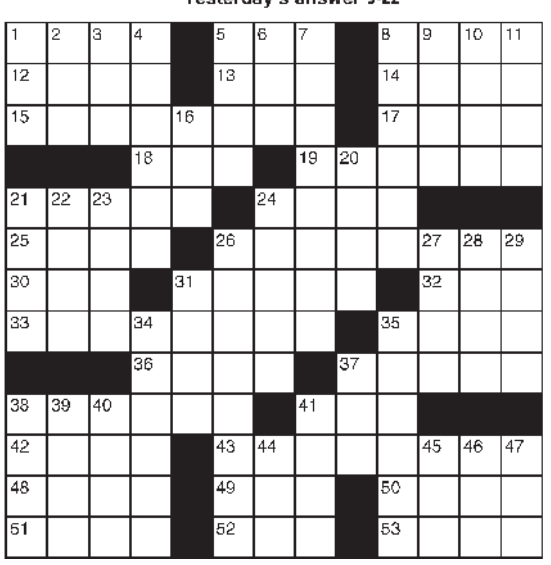
DOWN

1 Society newcomer
2 Consumed
3 Sheepish remark
4 Inane
5 Telly watcher
6 Nay undoer
7 Experi-mental trials
8 Auto-shopping area
9 Utah city
10 — cheese dressing
11 Auction-eer's cry
16 Danson of "Cheers"
20 "— Karenina"
21 Rules (Abbr.)
22 From the top
23 Take the bait
24 Gift recipient
26 Upper limits
27 Borodin's "Prince —"
28 Heroic verse
29 Fill fully
31 Luminary
34 Online messages
35 Toast topper
37 Diner dessert
38 Only
39 Soon, poetically
40 Pool table surface
41 Crisp cookie
44 "As I see it," in a text
45 — Jima
46 Sushi choice
47 Compass dir.

Solution time: 22 mins.

J	A	Y		A	M	E	N	D		Y	U	P
C	V	C		R	A	D	I	I		C	L	S
T	E	A	P	D	P	O	P	S		A	A	A
			H	O	C		A	C	O	R	N	S
A	L	G	O	R	E		¯	O	M	B		
R	O	E		S	A	C		S	N	O	O	P
C	P	A	S		L	P	S			O	W	A
H	E	R	O	N		R	A	M		K		N
		S	P	E	C		F	U	S	S	E	S
H	E	H	H	E	H		F	D	R			
U	R	I		D	E	A	R	D		A	R	Y
E	L	H		E	H	R	O	L		C	E	E
Y	E	I		D	I	A	N	E		H	O	W

Yesterday's answer 9-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Felton, 33; Bonnie Hunt, 59; Andrea Bocelli, 62; Joan Jett, 62.

Happy Birthday: Being smart with your money will be essential this year. Refuse to let anyone talk you into something you cannot afford. Helping others out of your heart's goodness is an admirable gesture, but not at the expense of causing personal problems or financial difficulties. Make positive changes that stabilize and secure a better future with less stress. Your numbers are 8, 17, 23, 25, 31, 37, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Listen to your inner voice when dealing with controversial issues. Keep your opinions to yourself, and someone will offer you enough information to make the best decision regarding your lifestyle and the path to follow. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A diligent approach to better health and fitness is encouraged. Taking an unnecessary gamble will lead to anxiety. Focus on what you can do without jeopardizing your health. You'll discover a smart way to live up to your obligations without risk. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stick to the facts, and refuse to let anyone entice you to do something detrimental to your status, reputation or a meaningful relationship. Someone will offer a false impression as to how well a person is doing emotionally or financially. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Put greater emphasis on how you handle your responsibilities. Doing a job to the best of your ability will alleviate criticism. Don't argue with someone who is trying to make you look bad. Take the high road, and be discreet. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Do what comes naturally, and don't stop until you reach your destination. How you handle situations will dictate the results. Use your charm, and give a friendly nudge to someone you need in order to complete your journey. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change at home will relieve tension. Keep your finances in order, and refuse to get involved in joint ventures that have a risk factor. A hasty decision will lead to repercussions. When in doubt, you are best to sit tight. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll be motivated to make changes in your life where relationships and personal goals are concerned. Don't back down because someone is enticing you to indulge or is using manipulative tactics to change your mind. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* How you present yourself and your ideas will matter. Leave nothing to chance, pay close attention to detail and be prepared to make last-minute changes as you move forward. Don't take risks with your health or reputation. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Taking on a mental or physical challenge will pump you up and encourage you to make a lifestyle change. Listen to your heart when it comes to love and romance, and plan to spend quality time with someone special. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You can do things your way as long as you stick to basic rules and regulations. If you exaggerate or make promises you cannot keep, you can expect repercussions. A change at home will affect your finances. Don't spend impulsively. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* An opportunity to use your skills, talents and experience to increase your income looks promising. Be open with someone you love, and you'll come up with a plan that will allow you to spend more time together. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stick to facts, do whatever it takes to keep the peace and avoid getting involved in matters that don't concern you. You can be a good listener without meddling. If you offer suggestions, you'll be the one blamed if things don't work out. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are empathetic, proactive and creative. You are ambitious and charismatic.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1		7	9		8
9			2		4	
7		9				3
	6		3		1	5
4 7		1		3		
8			5			2
	3		8		9	
1		5	7		4	

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	9	6	7	4	3	5	2	8
4	8	7	2	5	1	9	3	6
5	2	3	9	8	6	1	4	7
8	1	2	6	9	5	3	7	4
3	6	9	8	7	4	2	1	5
7	5	4	3	1	2	8	6	9
2	7	8	1	6	9	4	5	3
9	3	5	4	2	7	6	8	1
6	4	1	5	3	8	7	9	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MAKING HOMEMADE PIZZA DOUGH — Solution: 11 letters

E	T	A	L	F	R	O	B	D	U	S	T	I	N	G
M	R	S	S	E	R	P	A	O	B	L	E	S	M	C
I	A	T	R	I	S	E	K	R	W	L	Z	A	I	O
T	G	A	R	C	B	L	E	N	D	L	I	L	S	U
A	U	S	O	U	O	H	D	Z	I	Z	S	T	T	N
L	S	T	L	T	O	V	E	N	E	C	R	U	S	T
I	T	E	L	S	K	L	E	B	R	E	S	T	T	E
A	H	P	D	C	C	Q	F	R	A	N	P	D	I	R
N	G	A	I	N	N	I	U	S	I	L	A	O	F	U
G	I	H	P	I	U	M	T	A	P	E	L	T	F	T
Y	T	S	S	S	I	O	R	S	N	U	M	A	R	X
E	R	L	D	L	R	G	R	K	A	T	C	M	E	I
N	I	N	L	E	D	I	U	Q	I	L	I	O	S	M
O	A	E	R	U	T	A	R	E	P	M	E	T	H	N
H	T	O	O	M	S	K	C	I	T	S	A	E	Y	S

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Airtight, Baked, Ball, Blend, Bowls, Counter, Cover, Crust, Cups, Cuts, Dusting, Elastic, Flat, Flour, Freeze, Fresh, Grains, Hands, Herbs, Honey, Italian, Knead, Liquid, Maize, Millet, Mist, Mixture, Oils, Oven, Palm, Press, Quantity, Rest, Rise, Roll, Round, Salt, Shape, Size, Smooth, Stick, Stiff, Store, Sugar, Taste, Temperature, Thick, Time, Tomato, Yeast

Yesterday's Answer: Setback

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60 order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Davis' buzzer-beater gives Lakers 2-0 lead

AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis (3) shoots a 3-point basket over Denver Nuggets' Nikola Jokic (15) at the end of an NBA conference final playoff game Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The Lakers won, 105-103.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Anthony Davis has never been this deep in the playoffs, never had the chance to take such an important shot.

It's nothing new for the Los Angeles Lakers, though.

So when Davis' 3-pointer swished through the net as time expired to give the Lakers a 105-103 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Sunday night and a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals, coach Frank Vogel thought of a Laker who had done it before.

"That's a shot Kobe Bryant would hit," Vogel said. "To me, AD coming off, just flying to the wing like that, catch-and-shoot with the biggest game on the line of our season, nothing but net, it's a Mamba shot."

The Lakers were wearing their Black Mamba jerseys. They were co-designed by Bryant, their Hall of Fame guard who died Jan. 26 in a helicopter crash. Davis said wearing the jerseys that mean so much to the team made his winner feel even better.

"In the jersey we wore tonight, it just makes it even more special," he said.

The moment began, as these triumphs often do, with failure. With 20.8 seconds remaining, the Nuggets had taken the lead when Jokic backed down Davis and scored on a hook shot over him.

"I was kind of upset because I'm a better defensive player than that," said Davis, who then recounted some special coaching. "Rondo told me, 'It's all right, he scored on you, now you go get it back.

And so he did, with a shot that was born of hustle. In the final seconds, Alex Caruso missed a three-pointer but Danny Green grabbed the rebound and threw up a shot that Jamal Murray blocked out of bounds. If the Nuggets get that rebound, the game is over.

"Most people would give up on plays," said Davis. "It was a huge offensive rebound."

It was shot also born of bravado. Before the inbounds play, Rondo essentially talked his way into the game as the passer.

"As I was about to look for him, he came over and said, 'Different passer?"' said Vogel. "I'm like, heck yeah, let's go, let's get him in."

Sure enough, Rondo was the perfect person for the job. When he saw that James was covered by Jokic, he found Davis running free and connected.

"I knew if I kind of flew around with them kind of locked in on 'Bron, I was going to probably have a clean look," Davis said.

Davis finished with 31 points. He scored Los Angeles' last 10 points and had 22 in the second half to help the Lakers avoid becoming the latest victim of a Denver comeback.

"Special moment for a special player. Happy to be a part of it," said LeBron James, who had 26 points and 11 rebounds.

The Lakers said Davis was just the seventh Laker to make a buzzer-beater in the playoffs, a list that includes playoffs. Also on the list: Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, Derek Fisher, Robert Horry and Metta World Peace.

The Nuggets had trailed by as much as 16, but Nikola Jokic scored 11 straight Denver points down the stretch, including a basket that made it 103-102 with 20 seconds to play.

Jokic said there was miscommunication on the final play, when it appeared center Mason Plumlee let Davis drift free believing there was going to be a switch. Jokic raced out to him, but too late.

"Great players make great shots and he did it, so he's a really good player," Jokic said.

Jokic had 30 points and nine assists, and Murray scored 25 points.

Game 3 is Tuesday night.

James carried the Lakers early, with 20 points in the first half. But they went more in the second half to Davis, who had 37 in an easy Game 1 victory.

This one was much tighter and appeared it would be another huge rally by the Nuggets, who were down 16, 19 and 12 in the final three games against the Clippers, when they erased a 3-1 deficit.

They had climbed all the way out this hole when Murray scored for an 87-86 lead with 7:26 to play. But Green and Rondo hit 3-pointers and, after a basket by PJ Dozier, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope made another 3 to make it 95-89.

It was 100-92 after another 3 by Davis before Jokic answered with nine straight, tipping in a miss by Murray to give Denver a 101-100 edge with 31 seconds to play. Davis put the Lakers back on top with a basket in the lane, but Jokic backed him down on the other end to put the Nuggets back on top with 20 seconds remaining.

James started 5 of 6 while the rest of the Lakers missed their first 12 shots before Green's layup 7 1/2 minutes in gave them a 14-12 lead.

The lead was five midway through the second quarter before the Lakers had an 11-0 run that featured a steal and dunk and a 3-pointer by Alex that pushed it to 52-36 with about 4 minutes remaining in the half. Denver trimmed it to 60-50 at the break. ***(AP/NBC)***

Hayward's presence gives Boston a roadmap to beating Miami

FLORIDA—Turning left off Enes Kanter's shoulder, Boston Celtics wing Gordon Hayward emerged like a craft beer enthusiast at the end of his weekend off. With the ball spiraling on his palm, he was the Celtics' mustached offering from the basketball gods, swerving to the middle in that slow-fast way he does—fast enough to create enough space to avoid Miami Heat defender Andre Iguodala's patented swipe, deliberate enough to have exhausted all other options. He nailed a free-throw line jumper.

When the Celtics went down 0-2 against the Heat on Thursday, Marcus Smart went on a tirade so loud it literally leaked through the locker room halls and into the ears of reporters, triggering a news cycle of questions centered around combustibility, and who exactly the Celtics would be after the wick burned all the way down to the sticks of dynamite.

Before Saturday night's 117-106 win answered that question and made the series 2-1, a bottled excitement surrounded Hayward's return. If he played and if he looked anything like his regular self, he could be exactly what the Celtics have been missing: a tall playmaking wing to score, settle, and play defense. But they couldn't expect peak Hayward after he spent a month tending to an ankle injury, and if something didn't change, well, you know what the record says about teams that go down 3-0.

Hayward's arrival cut through the tension like a pocket-pass evading the arms of three Heat defenders, and hitting Daniel Theis on stride unencumbered to the rim—the place no Heat player wants it to go, and the place no other Celtic can reliably place it.

"He is a stabilizing force for our team," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "He just can make the right play and make a play for somebody else at the right time."

Hayward was by no means a savior. He spent chunks of his 30 minutes winded. "I'm extremely tired right now," he said after the game. "My ankle is pretty sore." No one knows which version of Hayward will show up for the rest of the series. He has said himself he isn't 100 percent. But he might not have to be. The sheer ripple effects of his presence have turned this into a series.

With 2:39 left in the first half, Theis checked out of the game for Smart, and for the first time in the postseason, the Celtics' best five players took the floor together: Kemba Walker, Smart, Hayward, Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown — an athletic, switchy, centerless lineup that hardly played together in the regular season. On their first trip down the floor, Tatum and Brown switched a dribble hand-off between Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo (the stuff of fireworks, generally). With Brown smothering him, Butler coughed up the ball and Tatum dunked it on the other end. Miami only scored once for the rest of the half. Boston unleashed a parade of dunks.

When the same lineup played in the second half, Brown matched Adebayo's strength down low. Tatum collected 13 defensive rebounds, a playoff career-high for him. I'm sure Heat coach Erik Spoelstra will come armed with a counter in Game 4, but if the Celtics can get away with playing five perimeter players without conceding the paint, the series could flip over on its head.

Smart toes the line of chaos and creation as the Celtics' primary playmaker. Hayward's return reconfigured him into his secondary creator and allowed him to expend his energy on defense, where he hounded Goran Dragic into his worst game of the series. Walker, a scoring point guard, can go back to doing what he does best.

In Hayward's absence, his teammates expanded their roles and survived. His presence allows them to retreat back to a more comfortable posture.

The Celtics can now trot out multiple playmakers at all times, arming them with the depth and complexity required to answer a question that has been unanswerable throughout the playoffs: How do you score on Miami's defense? Suddenly, everything feels different. A healthy Celtics team can throw unsolvable quandaries back at Miami. Hayward's return isn't a cheat code, but his vision gives the Celtics a roadmap.

Padres back in playoffs for 1st time in 14 years

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The San Diego Padres are returning to the playoffs for the first time in 14 years after beating the Seattle Mariners 7-4 Sunday with a three-run rally in the 11th inning that included a go-ahead double by newcomer Mitch Moreland.

The clincher came in the finale of a series that was moved from Seattle because of poor air quality due to wildfires, so the Mariners were considered the home team and batted last. After closer Trevor Rosenthal (1-0), another newcomer, struck out Phillip Ervin for the final out, the Padres had a brief but joyous celebration in the infield. Then they gathered near the dugouts to get playoff caps and T-shirts.

Although Petco Park was devoid of spectators, a handful of fans watched from a rooftop bar just beyond left-center field and several others watched from balconies on an office building high above right field.

AP
San Diego Padres' Fernando Tatis Jr. (23), Jurickson Profar (10), and Jake Cronenworth (9) celebrate after the Padres beat the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020, in San Diego. The Padres clinched a spot in the playoffs.

Red Sox 10, Yankees 2

Tanner Houck took a no-hitter into the sixth inning of his second major league start and Michael Chavis had a huge day at the plate as Boston halted two long streaks with a victory over New York.

Boston ended the Yankees' 10-game winning streak and snapped a 12-game skid against its longtime rival.

Orioles 2, Rays 1

John Means struck out a career-high 12 and Baltimore stalled Tampa Bay's push toward the AL East title.

Means (2-3) allowed three hits and a run in 5 2/3 innings. The left-hander tied a team record with seven consecutive strikeouts, matching the mark set by Sammy Stewart in 1978.

Braves 7, Mets 0

Kyle Wright allowed one hit in the best start of his big league career, pitching into the seventh inning to lead Atlanta past New York.

Ronald Acuna Jr. homered off Rick Porcello (1-6) to break a scoreless tie in the sixth and finished with four RBI.

Giants 14, Athletics 2

Brandon Crawford hit a grand slam, Chadwick Tromp and Darin Ruf added two-run homers, and San Francisco prevented Oakland from clinching the AL West title at home.

The Giants earned their first win in six tries during this year's Bay Bridge Series.

Twins 4, Cubs 0

Max Kepler homered and Jose Berrios threw six sharp innings to outduel Yu Darvish as Minnesota blanked Chicago.

Kepler had three hits for the Twins.

Marlins 2, Nationals 1, Game 1

Nationals 15, Marlins 0, Game 2

Kurt Suzuki homered and doubled to bounce back from a game-ending strikeout in the opener, and Washington routed playoff-contending Miami to split a doubleheader.

In the opener, Marlins reliever Brandon Kintzler fanned Suzuki with the bases loaded to preserve the win.

Reds 7, White Sox 3

Mike Moustakas hit a two-run single as Cincinnati scored five times in the fourth inning on just one hit.

Aristides Aquino hit a two-run homer as the surging Reds stayed in contention for a playoff spot.

Cardinals 2, Pirates 1

Yadier Molina hit a two-run homer and Jack Flaherty struck out 11 as St. Louis kept its hold on a postseason spot.

Molina's home run to the bleachers in left field came in the seventh inning off Pittsburgh reliever Derek Holland.

Rockies 6, Dodgers 3

Antonio Senzatela pitched efficiently into the seventh inning as Colorado avoided a sweep and delayed the Dodgers from clinching their eighth straight NL West title.

Senzatela allowed one run over 6 1/3 innings.

Indians 7, Tigers 4

Carlos Carrasco allowed one hit in seven scoreless innings, and Jose Ramirez homered twice to lift Cleveland.

Carrasco (3-4) struck out 11.

Brewers 5, Royals 3

Daniel Vogelbach hit two homers and drove in all five runs as Milwaukee swept the three-game series.

Vogelbach hit a two-run drive in the first inning off Brad Keller (4-3).

Rangers 7, Angels 2

Kyle Cody earned his first major league win as Texas hit a season-high five home runs.

Joey Gallo, Anderson Tejada, Sam Huff, Rougned Odor and Derek Dietrich homered for the Rangers.

Blue Jays 6, Phillies 3

Teoscar Hernandez hit a two-run homer and Taijuan Walker tossed six sharp innings to help Toronto snap a six-game losing streak with a win over Philadelphia.

Phillies slugger Bryce Harper exited with lower back stiffness after he struck out with the bases loaded in the seventh.

Astros 3, Diamondbacks 2

George Springer homered twice, including an inside-the-park shot, to lead Houston over Arizona.

Carlos Correa drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning off Junior Guerra (1-2).

Springer has 13 homers this year. He is set to become a free agent in the offseason, so it might have been his final home game with the Astros.

DeChambeau blasts way to US Open title

MAMARONECK, N.Y. (AP)—What was supposed to be a typical U.S. Open produced a most unconventional champion.

Bryson DeChambeau was not the least bit concerned by the narrow fairways or the ankle-deep rough that shape Winged Foot into historically the toughest of all U.S. Opens. With his extra 40 pounds of muscle and mass, he wanted to pound it into submission with his driver, even if his errant shots were buried in deep grass.

That's how he plays the game. And for skeptics who said that wouldn't work in a U.S. Open at Winged Foot, just look at that shiny silver trophy he kissed, and the record score he posted Sunday in a six-shot victory.

This victory was as much about validating his out-of-the-box approach to the royal and ancient game.

"One hundred percent, no doubt," DeChambeau said. "For me, it's about the journey of can I execute every shot more repeatable than everybody else. I was able to do that this week. That's why I won by six."

Part of this course's fame is the "Massacre of Winged Foot" in 1974 when the winning score was 7-over par.

This was a massacre, all right.

DeChambeau rolled in a 7-foot par putt and thrust those powerful arms in the air when he capped off a 3-under 67 on a course that didn't allow another round under par. Two shots behind Matthew Wolff at the start of a chilly September afternoon, he caught him in four holes, passed him in five and pulled away along the back nine.

From the fairway. From the rough. It didn't matter.

"I don't really know what to say because that's just the complete opposite of what you think a U.S. Open champion does" Rory McIlroy said. "Look, he's found a way to do it. Whether that's good or bad for the game, I don't know, but it's just not the way I saw this golf course being played or this tournament being played."

Call him a mad scientist in a tam o'shanter cap. Call him a game-changer in golf.

Any description now starts with U.S. Open champion.

Wolff, trying to become the first player since Francis Ouimet in 1913 to win the U.S. Open in his debut, closed with a 75. He made a 10-foot eagle putt on the par-5 ninth to stay within one shot. That was his only hole under par. Wolff finished at even-par 280, a score that would have won four of the previous five U.S. Opens at Winged Foot.

It didn't stand a chance in this one.

"You can't take Bryson out because obviously he won, but shooting even par for four rounds at Winged Foot is pretty exceptional," Wolff said.

That describes DeChambeau this week. It was a breathtaking performance, four rounds at par or better, the first player to manage that at Winged Foot.

His victory really began last October, when he closed out his 2019 season in Las Vegas and said with a mischievous grin, "I'm going to come back next year and look like a different person." He added 40 pounds through intense workout and a diet of 6,000 calories a day.

The COVID-19 pandemic shut down golf for three months, leading to the U.S. Open being postponed from June to September. It also gave DeChambeau more time to execute his plan of swinging faster and harder, stretching the limits.

Brady, Fournette lead Bucs over Panthers

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady has a dazzling track record of winning, period.

The six-time Super Bowl champion's perfect when it comes to rebounding from rare season-opening losses during a 21-year career after tasting victory with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for the first time on Sunday.

Brady threw for 217 yards, one touchdown and an interception, while getting a lot of help from another acquisition since last season, Leonard Fournette, who came off the bench to rush for 103 yards and two touchdowns for their 31-13 rout of the Panthers.

"Our execution was a little bit better. I think we're still a long way from where we need to be," Brady said. "I think if we have the ability to make plays, consistency, dependability are going to be things that we really need. So, we've got to get back to work. Clock's ticking on next week."

The 43-year-old quarterback also bounced back in Week 2 after dropping openers with the New England Patriots in 2003, 2014 and 2017.

"He has a pretty good history of that," coach Bruce Arians said. "This game should have never gotten to as close as it did. But I thought he was outstanding. His leadership on the sideline was great, and he put us in the right play with a number of different audibles and played really, really well."

AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) throws a pass against the Carolina Panthers during the second half of an NFL game Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020, in Tampa, Fla.

Brady tossed a 23-yard TD pass to Mike Evans in the first quarter. Fournette scored on runs of 1 and 46 yards, the latter coming after Carolina rallied from a 21-0 halftime deficit to pull within 24-17 on a pair of TD runs by Christian McCaffrey and Joey Slye's 23-yard field goal with 1:57 remaining.

"I tried to put the icing on the cake for the team," said Fournette, a two-time, 1,000-yard rusher who's been with Tampa Bay less than two weeks after being released by the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Chiefs 23, Chargers 20 OT

Harrison Butker kicked a 58-yard field goal with 1:55 remaining in overtime, and the Kansas City Chiefs survived a superlative first start by rookie Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert.

Butker's winner was his third field goal of the day and his second from 58 yards, which tied a Chiefs record for distance. He nailed a 30-yarder on the final play of regulation.

In overtime, Butker sent the ball through the uprights from 53 yards, but KC was called for a false start. Then the Chargers called timeout, giving him a rehearsal kick from 58 that he also made before the one that counted.

Patrick Mahomes completed less than half of his passes in the first half for only the third time in his career but rallied to finish 27 of 47 for 302 yards and two touchdowns. Tyreek Hill (five catches, 99 yards) and Travis Kelce (nine receptions, 90 yards) each had TD receptions.

Steelers 26, Broncos 21

Ben Roethlisberger threw for 311 yards with two touchdowns and an interception and the Steelers fended off a spirited comeback by Denver. The Steelers (2-0) knocked out Denver starting quarterback Drew Lock in the first quarter with a right shoulder injury. They didn't secure the win until safety Terrell Edmunds sacked Broncos backup Jeff Driskel on fourth-and-2 with less than two minutes to go.

Cowboys 40, Falcons 39

Greg Zuerlein kicked a 46-yard field goal as time expired after Dallas recovered an onside kick, and the Cowboys overcame four fumbles and a 20-point deficit in the first quarter to win coach Mike McCarthy's home debut.

49ers 31, Jets 13

Raheem Mostert ran for an 80-yard touchdown on San Francisco's first play from scrimmage and Jimmy Garoppolo threw two TD passes—before both players sat out the second half with injuries.

Bills 31, Dolphins 28

Josh Allen threw for 417 yards and four touchdowns, both career highs. Allen reached a career high in yards passing for the second week in a row, and became the first Buffalo quarterback to have back-to-back 300-yard games since Drew Bledsoe in 2002.

Titans 33, Jaguars 30

Stephen Gostkowski kicked a 49-yard field goal with 1:36 left. Gostkowski, who hit the left upright on an extra point, also made a 51-yarder at the end of the first half after an ugly performance in the opener.

CNMI

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we are usually working with fewer resources compared to the overseas competition. This is something out of the control of the athletes so we want to focus on making the most of what we have," said Omori.

Rizza Relucio, a member of the CNMI national team, said the discussions they had with Omori will not only help them in their games, but in their daily lives as well, as they are trained how to approach situations on and off the field.

Merrick Toves, another member of the national squad, knows Omori personally and how he is capable of helping a player, as the latter used to coach the former in basketball.

"He's a great teacher/coach and I like how he taught us things/ideas that can help us play smarter and better," the Kanoa Football Club mainstay said.

The sessions with Omori last month was timely, as the national teams, despite the suspension of majority of the local and international competitions the past months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, continue to train and prepare for future tournaments.

"Working with the teams has been a great pleasure. The players were very engaging and ready to absorbs the inputs they were provided. I hope that our sessions will allow them to increase their level of play and appreciation of the sport," said Omori.

Meanwhile, before pursuing his master's degree, Omori first graduated from University of Virginia last year with a with bachelor's degree in Youth and Social Innovation. He now works as a consultant under University of Denver's Center for Performance Excellence, providing mental health services to Denver and surrounding communities, and he is honored to share his knowledge to athletes back home.

"This program has been a great learning experience in a variety of aspects. I can see more perspectives which is important when working with sports teams since individuals see things differently. I hope that the work that I do can help athletes achieve their personal and athletic success," Omori said.

NMSA

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other stakeholders and policy enforcement and development, including the proper conduct of election of officers for sports federations.

As for NMSA's goal to be financially stable, there were discussions on maximizing grant opportunities, strengthening relationships with government and business partners, and international federations, and creating revenue-generating programs and events.

While NMSA recognizes the importance of tournaments that attract off-island participants and boost sports tourism on island, Tan and NMSA board member Lia Rangamar (interim athlete representative) believe the association must also build up interscholastic competitions in the CNMI, as student-athletes will provide the islands a deep pool of talents and will ensure the continuity of the programs of each federation. Rangamar also wishes to see programs available for student-athletes who may decide to stay on island and transition to an even bigger role in the development of their respective sports.

Once talents are identified, one crucial factor to their progress are the facilities and again NMSA is looking at working with its partners to secure safe and appropriate venues for competitions, training, and health and wellness activities.

"We explored available resources and formulated the best scenario for our community. In short, the seminar provided us with a systematic and collective vision for CNMI sports and at the same time we anticipated objections as constructive. The short- and long-term plans developed at this seminar also look into the overall CNMI economic landscape," NMSA vice president and Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tebuteb said.

Meanwhile, Spethman said that it is important that NMSA engaged an external party to assist the association in developing its strategy. Spethman will compile the workshop discussions, provide additional input, and turn in a report to NMSA.

"The ability to have an external party assist them provides a different point of view and ensures that NMSA board and staff can participate to their fullest capacity. As the governing body for sports in the CNMI, it is vitally important for NMSA to develop its new strategy so that it can continue to support sports in the region. The new leadership of NMSA will continue to build on the legacy of previous leaders, of course, but the new leadership also has the opportunity to really showcase sports in the region as we move into the next decade," she said.

"The key focus areas that were identified will allow specific projects to enhance the business of sport federations and sporting competitions in the CNMI. Identifying participation and competition opportunities for all who want to engage in sports will be a key project for the association moving forward as well as ensuring future financial sustainability. It was a pleasure to work with NMSA in this exciting phase of their sports journey," she added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Sports Association members and officials review the topics discussed in the first day of the NMSA's strategic planning workshop held at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom last Sept. 11.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Sports Association members and officials discuss ideas that will help the group become financially stable.

Davis' buzzer-beater gives Lakers 2-0 lead

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NMSA holds strategic planning workshop

The Northern Marianas Sports Association took one big step toward working on a systematic and collective vision for CNMI sports.

The group held a strategic planning workshop early this month, formulating its short- and long-term goals and objectives and outlining programs, initiatives, and strategies to achieve them. The NMSA board members and officials headed by its president Jerry Tan attended the workshop that took place at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom last Sept. 11 and 12. FISU Oceania secretary general Donna Spethman conducted the workshop, which was made possible through a grant that NMSA availed of in partnership with the Northern Marianas College and the Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire through NMSA International Sports Committee member Laurie Peterka.

"The grant included support for increasing the capacity of NMSA to be able to deliver effective governance and programs to student-athletes and local sport organizations," said NMSA executive director Carline Sablan, who was also present at the two-day event.

In the workshop, NMSA identified key areas of focus for its action plan, including how to address the challenges that the organization faces as it works toward its goals.

The discussions covered governance/administration, financial stability, the events calendar, talent identification and development, and facilities.

Participants in the workshops suggested to see consistent communication among NMSA members and

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Northern Marianas Sports Association's strategic planning workshop pose for a photo with FISU Oceania secretary general Donna Spethman, who virtually facilitated the event held at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom last Sept. 11 and 12.

CNMI players toughen up

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Merrick Toves, left, seen here playing in the 2019 NMIFA Youth Spring League, was among the CNMI players who attended a mental skill training session with Kanata Omori last month.

CNMI national players continue to make the most of their downtime from soccer games as they attended mental skills training classes with a consultant in sports and performance psychology.

Members of the CNMI boys U15 and U17 national team and the Women's National Team had virtual sessions with Kanata Omori, who was born and raised on Saipan and is now in Colorado taking up a master's degree in Sport and Performance Psychology at the University of Denver.

Omori, who also used to play soccer and suited up for TanHoldings Football Club's youth team, declined to disclose details of his sessions with the team as he is bound by confidentiality, but said that their discussions focused on improving players' mentality on and off the pitch, the squad's short and long-term goals, and the importance of playing for the CNMI.

"Being a small island teams,

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2019 file photo, CNMI players warm up before playing against the Philippines in the Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Jakarta, Indonesia. The islands' soccer players continue to train, on and off the pitch, amid the COVID-19 pandemic to prepare for future competitions.